



Brussels, 28 October 2015  
(OR. en)

12646/15

---

---

**Interinstitutional File:**  
**2015/0230 (NLE)**

---

---

WTO 208  
SERVICES 32  
COAFR 283

**"I/A" ITEM NOTE**

---

|                |  |
|----------------|--|
| From:          | General Secretariat of the Council   |
| To:            | Permanent Representatives Committee/Council  |
| No. Cion doc.: | 12644/15 WTO 207 SERVICES 31 COAFR 282   |
| Subject:       | Draft Council Decision establishing the position to be taken on behalf of the European Union within the Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization on the accession of the Republic of Liberia to the World Trade Organization<br>- Adoption |

---

1. On 1 October 2015, the Commission submitted to the Council a proposal for a Council Decision establishing the position to be taken by the European Union within the Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization on the accession of the Republic of Liberia to the WTO.
2. On 9 October 2015, the Trade Policy Committee (Deputies) discussed, and subsequently endorsed, the Commission proposal. All delegations indicated their common accord in regard to the matters falling within Member State competence and agreed on the need for a separate Decision by the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States meeting within the Council to that end. The Commission considered that such Decision was not necessary.

3. It is therefore suggested that the Permanent Representatives Committee invite:
- the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States meeting within the Council to confirm their common accord in regard to the matters falling within Member State competence;
  - the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States meeting within the Council to adopt the Decision, as set out in Annex I to this note;
  - the Council to adopt, as an "A" item at a forthcoming meeting, the above-mentioned Council Decision, as finalised by the legal linguistic experts and as set out in document 12647/15 WTO 209 SERVICES 33 COAFR 284;
  - the Council to agree to enter in its minutes the statements by the Commission, Ireland and the United Kingdom, as set out in Annex II to this note.
-

**Decision by the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States**  
**meeting within the Council**

The position to be taken by the Member States within the Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization on the accession of the Republic of Liberia is to approve the accession.

Done at Brussels,

For the Representatives of the  
Governments of the Member States  
The President

---

**Statements with regard to the decisions on the WTO accession of the Republic of Liberia**

**1. Statement by the Commission**

The Commission welcomes the adoption of the Council Decision establishing the EU position in favour of the accession of the Republic of Liberia.

The Commission notes that it is proposed that a Decision of the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States meeting within the Council be adopted on this accession by common accord as regards the position of the Member States in the WTO. The Commission notes that it would have been possible to adopt an EU decision which would have rendered such a separate decision unnecessary.

**2. Statement by Ireland**

The provisions relating to the temporary presence of natural persons for business purposes included in the Decision authorized by the Council only bind Ireland as part of the Union where it has notified its wish to participate in the above Decision in accordance with Protocol No.21 on the position of Ireland and the United Kingdom in respect of the area of Freedom, Security and Justice. Ireland will ensure that the temporary presence of natural persons for business purposes is allowed in accordance with those provisions.

**3. Statement by the United Kingdom**

The provisions relating to the temporary presence of natural persons for business purposes included in the above Decision only bind the United Kingdom as part of the Union where it has notified its wish to participate in the above Decision in accordance with Protocol No.21 on the position of the United Kingdom and Ireland in respect of the area of Freedom, Security and Justice.