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European Union

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"I/A" ITEM NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Permanent Representatives Committee (Part 1)/Council
Subject:	COUNCIL DECISION on the position on Decision No 1/2015 to be taken on behalf of the European Union by the Joint Veterinary Committee set up by the Agreement between the European Community and the Swiss Confederation on trade in agricultural products regarding the amendment of Appendices 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 10 and 11 of Annex 11 to the Agreement - Adoption

1. On 26 June 2015, the Commission submitted to the Council the above mentioned proposal.
2. The aim of the proposal is to extend until the end of 2016 the possibility for Switzerland to derogate under certain conditions from the Trichinella examination of carcasses and meat of domestic swine, after the expiry of the previously granted derogation on 31.12.2014.
3. The proposal also aims at approving the plan setting out the measures that Switzerland intends to implement for the approval of its poultry and hatching egg production establishments for the purposes of Council Directive 2009/158/EC¹ and introduces a number of technical updates to the Agreement.

¹ Council Directive 2009/158/EC of 30 November 2009 on animal health conditions governing intra-Community trade in, and imports from third countries of, poultry and hatching eggs (OJ L 343, 22.12.2009, p. 74)

3. The proposal was examined by the Working Party of Chief Veterinary Officers on 16 July 2015². It was approved by all delegations at that level.
4. Due to the late submission of the proposal, its adoption by the Council and the subsequent signature of the agreement before the expiry of the previously granted derogation was not possible. Following the advice of the Council Legal Service, the text was slightly revised to take into account the need for the retroactive application of the agreement as from 1.1.2015. This modification together with the corrections of a number of references to existing legislation of the EU and of Switzerland were communicated to delegations in document 13365/15.
5. In view of the above, COREPER (1st Part) is invited
 - to confirm its approval of the draft Decision as set out in document 13618/15³, and
 - to request the Council to adopt the above mentioned Decision as set out in document 13618/15.

² This was followed by an information point at the Working Party on European Free Trade Association (EFTA) at its meeting of 9 November 2015.

³ The final document which has undergone the legal linguistic revision.