



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

**Brussels, 17 December 2013
(OR. en)**

Interinstitutional File:
2013/0384 (NLE)

**17080/13
ADD 1 REV 1 (en)**

TDC 27

"I/A" ITEM NOTE

from: General Secretariat of the Council
to: Permanent Representatives Committee/Council

No. Cion prop.: 16137/13 TDC 18 + ADD 1

Subject: Adoption of a Council Regulation suspending the autonomous Common Customs
Tariff duties on certain agricultural and industrial products and repealing
Regulation (EU) No 1344/2011

**Item 26: Council Regulation suspending the autonomous Common Customs Tariff duties on
certain agricultural and industrial products and repealing Regulation (EU) No 1344/2011**

Statement by France for entry in the Council minutes

France supports the adoption of the Council Regulation suspending autonomous Common Customs
Tariff duties, applicable from 1 January 2014.

The general objective of this type of measure is to help improve the competitive capacity of EU industry and to protect or create jobs.

For certain sectors that are particularly exposed to the effects of the economic crisis, this measure is sometimes essential to maintain operations.

This is the case for the French plywood sector, which until the end of 2013 benefited from the Generalised System of Preferences (GSP) applied to Gabon, exporter of okoumé wood.

The 6 % increase in customs duties is likely to seriously compromise the economic balance of the companies concerned, which account for several thousand jobs.

To enable these companies to continue production, France will submit a suspension request in the next Council Regulation applicable from 1 July 2014, with retroactive effect from 1 January 2014.

The consultations conducted by France on this issue confirm that such a suspension is consistent with the interests of the Union and industry requirements, and that its inclusion in the draft Regulation would have no negative impact on other Member States.
