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From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Permanent Representatives Committee/Council

Subject: Draft Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the introduction of emergency autonomous trade measures for the Republic of Tunisia (**first reading**)
- Adoption of the legislative act (**LA + S**)
= Statement

Statement by Greece and Italy

Regarding the introduction of emergency autonomous trade measures for the Republic of Tunisia, Greece and Italy take into due consideration the wider political and socio-economic aspects of the EU support to Tunisia.

However, Greece and Italy express their serious concerns about the lack of the necessary consultations that should have taken place earlier, the duration of the measures, the repeal of the smooth monthly allocation of the above imports and the absence of an ex ante impact assessment on the European olive oil sector.

Furthermore, it should be stressed that the agricultural sector is a cornerstone of the economy of Greece and Italy. Therefore, the concessions by the EU to its trade partners should be governed by the principle of a balanced and proportional approach among the various sectors of the EU economy.

This concession should not constitute a precedent for the future.
