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Subject: Adoption of a Council Decision authorizing the Commission, on behalf of the European Community, to negotiate amendments to the International Convention on the Harmonization of Frontier Controls of Goods concluded at Geneva on 21 October 1982

Delegations will find attached the declassified version of the above document.

The text of this document is identical to the previous version.

RESTREINT UE



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"I/A" ITEM NOTE

from: General Secretariat
to: Permanent Representatives Committee/Council
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(SEC(2003)264 final)UE RESTREINT

Subject : Adoption of a Council Decision authorizing the Commission, on behalf of the European Community, to negotiate amendments to the International Convention on the Harmonization of Frontier Controls of Goods concluded at Geneva on 21 October 1982

1. Under cover of a letter dated 7 March 2003, the Commission submitted to the Council a recommendation designed to authorize the Commission to negotiate amendments to the International Convention on the Harmonization of Frontier Controls of Goods, which was concluded at Geneva on 21 October 1982. The amendments aim to include provisions to facilitate the border crossing of vehicles carrying perishable goods.

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2. The Working Party on Customs Union (Legislation and Policy) examined the recommendation on 30 April, 23 June and 11 July 2003 and has agreed to the texts annexed to this Note.¹

3. The Permanent Representatives Committee is therefore invited to propose that the Council, as an "A" item on the agenda of a forthcoming meeting, adopt the draft Decision and the negotiating directives set out in the Annex to this Note.

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¹ The Danish delegation has a parliamentary scrutiny reservation.

COUNCIL DECISION

authorizing the Commission to negotiate amendments to the International Convention on the Harmonization of Frontier Controls of Goods concluded at Geneva on 21 October 1982

1. The Council, on the recommendation of the Commission, authorizes the Commission to negotiate amendments to the International Convention on the harmonization of frontier controls of goods concluded at Geneva on 21 October 1982 to address measures required for efficient border crossing procedures.
2. The Commission will conduct negotiations in consultation with the Special Committee appointed by the Council to assist it in this task and in accordance with the negotiating directives set out in the Annex.

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Annex to the ANNEX

NEGOTIATING DIRECTIVES FOR AMENDMENTS TO THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON THE HARMONIZATION OF FRONTIER CONTROLS OF GOODS CONCLUDED AT GENEVA ON 21 OCTOBER 1982

I. OBJECTIVE OF THE AMENDMENTS

The objective of the amendments to the Convention will be to elaborate a new Annex to the Convention which will address measures required for efficient border crossing procedures in the international road transport of goods, covering different types of cargoes, particularly live animals and perishable goods, road vehicles, visa policies and procedures for professional drivers and border crossing procedures and infrastructures.

II. NEGOTIATING DIRECTIVES

The Commission, in accordance with provisions adopted by the Community, shall negotiate amendments relating to:

- visa policies and procedures for professional drivers;
- the facilitation of international road transport operations involving the transport of live animals and perishable goods;
- road vehicle inspection certificates;

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- road vehicle weight certificates; and
- external border controls.

The special position of the United Kingdom, Ireland and Denmark in relation to visas and external border issues, which are covered by Title IV of the EC Treaty, shall be respected.

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