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AGRI 191

'I/A' ITEM NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Permanent Representatives Committee (Part 2)/Council

Subject: Council Decision on the conclusion of the Agreement in the form of an Exchange of Letters between the European Union and the Swiss Confederation in the context of negotiations under Article XXVIII of the GATT 1994 on the modification of Switzerland's WTO concessions with regard to seasoned meat
- Adoption

1. On 24 September 2019, the Commission submitted to the Council a proposal for a Council Decision on the signing¹, on behalf of the Union, of the Agreement in the form of an Exchange of Letters between the European Union and Switzerland in connection with the negotiations under Article XXVIII of the GATT 1994 on the modification of Switzerland's WTO concessions on meat not further prepared than seasoned, as well as a proposal for a Council Decision on the conclusion² of that Agreement.

¹ doc. 12478/19 + ADD 1
² doc. 12479/19 + ADD 1.

2. On 24 October 2019, the Council adopted the Decision on the signing³ of the Agreement. At the same time and in accordance with Article 218(6)(a)(v) TFEU, the Council decided to forward the draft Council Decision on the conclusion of the Agreement, together with the Agreement itself⁴, to the European Parliament for its consent, with a view to preparing for the future conclusion of the Agreement.
3. The Agreement was signed on 9 December 2019.
4. On 17 June 2020, the European Parliament gave its consent to the conclusion of the Agreement.
5. On 26 June 2020, the Trade Policy Committee (Deputies) endorsed the draft Council Decision on the conclusion of the Agreement.
6. In light of the above, and subject to confirmation by the Permanent Representatives' Committee, the Council is invited to:
 - adopt, as an "A" item on the agenda of one of its forthcoming meetings, the Council Decision on the conclusion of the Agreement as finalised by the legal-linguistic experts and set out in document 12482/19 + COR 1;
 - note that the European Parliament will be informed in accordance with Article 218(10) TFEU, and that the Council Decision will be transmitted to the European Parliament.

³ doc. 12481/19 + COR 1 (published in OJ L 289, 8.11.2019, p. 1).

⁴ doc. 12483/19 + COR 1.