



Brussels, 9 July 2020
(OR. en)

Interinstitutional Files:
2020/0089(NLE)
2020/0088(NLE)

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'I/A' ITEM NOTE

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

No. Cion doc.: 8354/20 + ADD 1, 8357/20 + ADD 1

Subject: Council Decision on the signing, on behalf of the Union, of the Agreement between the European Union and the Government of the People's Republic of China on cooperation on, and protection of, geographical indications
-Adoption
and
Council Decision on the conclusion of the Agreement between the European Union and the Government of the People's Republic of China on cooperation on, and protection of, geographical indications
-Request for the consent of the European Parliament

Statement by Belgium, Denmark, Luxembourg, The Netherlands and Sweden

Belgium, Denmark, Luxembourg, The Netherlands and Sweden support the conclusion of a bilateral agreement with China on the protection of agricultural geographical indications, wines and spirits. Belgium, Denmark, Luxembourg, The Netherlands and Sweden appreciate the progress that has been made in improving the bilateral trade relations with China with regard to agricultural products, wines and spirits.

Belgium, Denmark, Luxembourg, The Netherlands and Sweden have noted with concern however that the draft agreement could be read as implying that in the future EU legislation protecting geographical indications might be extended in scope of protection to geographical indications of non-agricultural products and therefore stress that international agreements protecting certain geographical indications cannot anticipate or prejudge any decision as regards the expansion of the scope of EU legislation in this regard.
