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Interinstitutional Files:
2018/0093(NLE)
2018/0094(NLE)

WTO 290
SERVICES 57
COASI 141

'A' ITEM NOTE

From: Permanent Representatives Committee
To: Council

Subject: Council Decision on the conclusion of the Free Trade Agreement between the European Union and the Republic of Singapore
– Adoption

1. On 18 April 2018, the Commission submitted to the Council a proposal for a Council Decision on the signing¹, on behalf of the European Union, of the Free Trade Agreement between the European Union and the Republic of Singapore, as well as a proposal for a Council Decision on the conclusion² of that Agreement.
2. On 15 October 2018, 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 as set out in document 7971/18 WTO 75 SERVICES 24 COASI 92, together with the Agreement itself⁴, to the European Parliament for its consent, with a view to preparing for the future conclusion of the Agreement.

¹ Doc. 7966/18 WTO 70 SERVICES 19 COASI 87 + ADD 1-13.

² Doc. 7967/18 WTO 71 SERVICES 20 COASI 88 + ADD 1-13.

³ Doc. 7968/18 WTO 72 SERVICES 21 COASI 89 (published in OJ L 267, 25.10.2018, p. 1).

⁴ Doc. 7972/18 WTO 76 SERVICES 25 COASI 93 + ADD 1-5.

3. The Agreement with the Republic of Singapore was signed on 19 October 2018.
4. On 13 February 2019, the European Parliament gave its consent to the conclusion of the Agreement.
5. Following the completion of the registration of EU geographical indications in Singapore, the Trade Policy Committee (Deputies) discussed the issue of conclusion of the EU-Singapore Free Trade Agreement at its meetings on 27 September, 4 October and 16 October 2019.
6. On 23 October 2019, the Permanent Representatives' Committee reached an agreement on the draft Council Decision on the conclusion of the EU-Singapore Free Trade Agreement and agreed that the Agreement should enter into force on 21 November 2019.
7. In light of the above, the Council is invited to:
 - adopt, as an "A" item on the agenda of one of its forthcoming meetings, the Decision on the conclusion of the Agreement as set out in document 7971/18 WTO 75 SERVICES 24 COASI 92;
 - agree that the Agreement should enter into force on 21 November 2019 in agreement with the Singaporean side;
 - note that the European Parliament will be informed in accordance with Article 218(10) TFEU, and that the Council Decision on the conclusion will be transmitted to the European Parliament;
 - decide to enter in its minutes the statements contained in addendum to this note.