



**Brussels, 23 October 2020
(OR. en)**

11514/20

**PROBA 29
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'I' ITEM NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Permanent Representatives Committee (Part 2)
No. Cion doc.:	COM(2020) 583 final
Subject:	COUNCIL DECISION on the position to be taken on behalf of the European Union in the International Coffee Organization Council

1. The International Coffee Organization (ICO) is the main intergovernmental organisation for the coffee sector. The ICO aims to ensure enhanced international cooperation between exporting and importing countries on world coffee matters and related issues. The ICO was established under the International Coffee Agreement 2007 (ICA). The EU is a member of the ICO since it is a party to the ICA.¹
2. The ICA was signed in 2007 and entered into force on 2 February 2011 for a period of ten years (i.e. until 1 February 2021). According to Article 48, the ICA can be extended for a maximum of eight years. On 11 September 2020, the ICC approved ICC Resolution extending the ICA 2007 for one year in order to conduct a substantial revision of it. The EU agreed in principle to the extension.

¹ 2008/579/EC: Council Decision of 16 June 2008 on the signing and conclusion on behalf of the European Community of the International Coffee Agreement 2007 (OJ L186 of 15/07/2008, p.12).

3. On 28 September 2020, the Commission submitted a draft proposal for a Council Decision on the position to be taken on behalf of the European Union in the International Coffee Council, as set out in document ST 11693/2020. In line with suggestions of the Council Legal Service and the Council Secretariat, the Presidency proposed amendments to the text which were agreed by the Commission. These changes were reflected in document WK 10610/2020, which was discussed by the members of the Working Party on Commodities during an informal videoconference meeting on 6 October 2020. Following a written consultation, on 12 October 2020 the members of the Working Party on Commodities agreed to the text of the Council Decision, as set out in document WK 10610/2020.
4. The EU's participation in the ICO is beneficial both to the Union and to other ICO member states. Extending the ICA beyond 1 February 2021 and revising it would potentially increase its value added and the relevance of its work and possibly attract more interest in the ICO. An extension of the ICA is therefore in the interest of the Union.
5. In view of the above, the Permanent Representatives Committee is invited:
 - to approve the text of the Council Decision on the position to be taken on behalf of the European Union in the International Coffee Council, as set out in document ST 11720/2020, after finalisation by the legal/linguistic experts, and
 - to decide, in accordance with the first subparagraph of Article 12(1) of the Council's Rules of Procedure and Article 1 of Council Decision 2020/430, that the Council uses the written procedure for the adoption of this Decision.

Due to the urgency of the matter, the written procedure would be launched immediately after the Committee's agreement, with the deadline for replying set at Wednesday 4 November 2020, 17.00 (Brussels time).
