



**Brussels, 5 March 2021
(OR. en)**

6633/21

**UD 78
RELEX 162
ASIE 7**

'I' ITEM NOTE

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

Subject: Enhancing EU-China Trade Security and Facilitation
- Strategic Framework for Customs Cooperation 2021 – 2024 between the European Union and the Government of the People's Republic of China
- Approval of entering into negotiation
- Decision to use the written procedure

1. On 14 October 2020, the Commission informed the Council on the intention to enter into negotiations on behalf of the Union on a Strategic Framework for Customs Cooperation 2021–2024 between the European Union and the Government of the People's Republic of China¹. This non-binding instrument (NBI)² intends to establish a general framework for customs cooperation that should take into account new challenges and opportunities in order to enhance EU-China trade security and facilitation.
2. It is understood that the Commission will revert to the Council at the end of the negotiations to seek the Council's authorisation of the signature of the instrument on behalf of the Union, and this should be at least five weeks before the date of the intended signature, except in duly justified cases of urgency.

¹ WK 11088/20

² ST 15367/17

3. The Working Party on Customs Union discussed the approach proposed by the Commission on 27 October 2020 and 24 February 2021. No objections were raised from delegations.
 4. In light of the foregoing, the Permanent Representatives Committee is invited:
 - to recommend to the Council to approve the entering into the negotiations by the Commission on Strategic Framework for Customs Cooperation 2021 – 2024 between the European Union and the Government of the People's Republic of China, 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 use the written procedure for the approval to enter into negotiations.
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