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To:	Delegations
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Subject:	Proposal for a REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL suspending certain parts of Regulation (EU) 2015/478 as regards imports of Ukrainian products into the European Union - Letter to the Chair of the European Parliament Committee on International trade (INTA)

Following the Permanent Representatives Committee meeting of 2 April 2025 which endorsed the final compromise text with a view to an agreement with the European Parliament on the suspending certain parts of Regulation 2015/478 as regards Ukraine, delegations are informed that the Presidency has sent the letter in ANNEX to the Chair of the European Parliament Committee on International Trade (INTA).

Brussels, 2 April 2025

Mr Bernd Lange
Chair, European Parliament Committee on International Trade (INTA)
European Parliament
60, rue Wiertz / Wiertzstraat 60
B-1047 Bruxelles / Brussel

Subject: Proposal for a REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL suspending certain parts of Regulation (EU) 2015/478 as regards imports of Ukrainian products into the European Union (2025/0056 (COD))
- First reading agreement

Dear Mr Lange,

I am pleased to inform you that the Permanent Representatives Committee agreed today to the above-mentioned proposal as set out in the Annex of this letter.

I am therefore now in a position to confirm that, should the European Parliament adopt its position at first reading in accordance with Article 294, paragraph 3 of the Treaty, in the form set out in Annex to this letter (subject to the revision by the lawyers-linguists of both institutions), the Council would, in accordance with Article 294, paragraph 4 of the Treaty, approve the European Parliament's position. The act is then adopted in the wording which corresponds to the European Parliament's position.

On behalf of the Council, I also wish to thank you for the close cooperation which should enable us to reach an agreement on this dossier at first reading.

Yours faithfully,



A. BARTOL
Chair of the
Permanent Representatives Committee

Copy: Mr Maras SEFCOVIC, Member of the European Commission
Ms Karin KARLSBRO, M.E.P., INTA rapporteur

REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL
suspending certain parts of Regulation (EU) 2015/478 as regards imports of Ukrainian
products into the European Union

THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, and in particular Article 207(2) thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the European Commission,

After transmission of the draft legislative act to the national parliaments,

Acting in accordance with the ordinary legislative procedure¹,

Whereas:

- (1) The Association Agreement between the European Union and the European Atomic Energy Community and their Member States, of the one part, and Ukraine, of the other part (the Association Agreement)² constitutes the basis of the relationship between the Union and Ukraine. In accordance with Council Decision 2014/668/EU³, Title IV of the Association Agreement, which relates to trade and trade-related matters, entered into provisional application on 1 January 2016 and entered into force on 1 September 2017, following ratification by all Member States.
- (2) The Association Agreement strengthens and widens the Parties relations in an ambitious and innovative way, with a view to facilitating and achieving gradual economic integration; and

¹ Position of the European Parliament (not yet published in the Official Journal) and position of the Council (not yet published in the Official Journal).

² OJ L 161, 29.5.2014, p. 3.

³ Council Decision 2014/668/EU of 23 June 2014 on the signing, on behalf of the European Union, and provisional application of the Association Agreement between the European Union and the European Atomic Energy Community and their Member States, of the one part, and Ukraine, of the other part, as regards Title III (with the exception of the provisions relating to the treatment of third-country nationals legally employed as workers in the territory of the other Party) and Titles IV, V, VI and VII thereof, as well as the related Annexes and Protocols (OJ L 278, 20.9.2014, p. 1).

to do so in accordance with the rights and obligations arising out of the Parties' membership of the World Trade Organization.

- (3) Regulation (EU) 2015/478 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2015⁴ lays down common rules for imports originating in most third countries, including Ukraine. It also contains provisions on surveillance and safeguard measures.
- (4) Russia's unprovoked and unjustified full-scale invasion of Ukraine has, since 24 February 2022, had a profoundly negative impact on Ukraine's ability to trade with the rest of the world. This has been the case for iron and steel, for example, because of the occupation or destruction of iron and steel production facilities. It has also been the case for other parts of the Ukrainian economy.
- (5) In these circumstances and in order to mitigate the negative economic impact of Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine, it is appropriate, for Ukraine's benefit, to exempt Union imports originating in Ukraine from Union surveillance and safeguard measures. For this purpose, it is necessary to suspend various provisions of Regulation (EU) 2015/478 on common rules for imports from Ukraine.
- (6) The Commission should be able to temporarily suspend the application of this Regulation in respect of a specific product by means of an implementing act. Those powers should be exercised in accordance with Regulation (EU) No 182/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council⁵. The duration of such suspension should be long enough to allow the Commission to make a proposal; and for the Parliament and Council to adopt a Regulation suspending, amending or terminating this Regulation.
- (7) This Regulation should apply for three years ~~and its application should be tacitly renewed for further three year periods unless and until either the European Parliament or the Council would oppose such an extension three months before the expiry date.~~
- (8) In light of the forthcoming expiry on 5 June 2025 of Regulation (EU) 2024/1392 of the European Parliament and of the Council⁶, which provides, among other things, for effects equivalent to the effects of this Regulation, this Regulation should enter into force on 6 June 2025,

⁴ Regulation (EU) 2015/478 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2015 on common rules for imports (OJ L 83, 27.3.2015, p. 16).

⁵ Regulation (EU) No 182/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 February 2011 laying down the rules and general principles concerning mechanisms for control by Member States of the Commission's exercise of implementing powers (OJ L 55, 28.2.2011, p. 13).

⁶ Regulation (EU) 2024/1392 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 May 2024 on temporary trade-liberalisation measures supplementing trade concessions applicable to Ukrainian products under the Association Agreement between the European Union and the European Atomic Energy Community and their Member States, of the one part, and Ukraine, of the other part, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2024/1392/oj>.

HAVE ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

Article 1
Trade-liberalisation measures

The application of Article 2, Articles 4 to 7, Articles 9 to 17 and Articles 19 to 21 of Regulation (EU) 2015/478 on common rules for imports shall be suspended with regard to imports into the Union originating in Ukraine.

Article 2
Temporary suspension

The Commission shall be empowered to adopt an implementing act to suspend the application of this Regulation in respect of a specific product for a period that in principle shall not exceed twelve months, if imports of this product that originate in Ukraine increase to a level that contributes significantly to the serious injury or threat of serious injury to a Union industry that produces the like or directly competitive product. That implementing act shall be adopted in accordance with the examination procedure referred to in Article 3(2).

Article 3
Committee procedure

1. The Commission shall be assisted by the Committee on Safeguards with regard to Article 4 of this Regulation. That Committee shall be a committee within the meaning of Regulation (EU) No 182/2011.
2. Where reference is made to this paragraph, Article 5 of Regulation (EU) No 182/2011 shall apply.

Article 4
Entry into force and application

This Regulation shall enter into force on 6 June 2025.

It shall apply ~~for an initial period of three years~~ from 6 June 2025 until 5 June 2028.

~~Its application shall be tacitly extended for successive periods of three years unless the European Parliament or the Council opposes such an extension no later than three months before the end of each period.~~

This Regulation shall be binding in its entirety and directly applicable in all Member States.

Done at Brussels,

For the European Parliament
The President

For the Council
The President