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**'I/A' ITEM NOTE**

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From: General Secretariat of the Council  
To: Permanent Representatives Committee/Council  
Subject: Draft REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE  
COUNCIL on applying a generalised scheme of tariff preferences and  
repealing Regulation (EU) No 978/2012 **(first reading)**  
- Adoption of the legislative act  
= Statement

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**Portugal has requested that the following statement be entered in the Council minutes**

Portugal acknowledges the importance of the Generalised Scheme of Preferences as a key instrument of the EU's trade and development policy. The adoption of the new GSP regulation is therefore a priority for us.

However, the agreement reached with the European Parliament does not fully address the concerns repeatedly raised by Portugal throughout the negotiation process regarding the automatic safeguard mechanism for rice.

For Portugal, the parameters agreed for the safeguard mechanism remain insufficient to ensure the effective protection of a sector which, for Portugal as for other Member States, is structurally vulnerable and particularly sensitive.

Portugal therefore takes note of the agreement reached on the safeguard mechanism, but is unable to support the proposal for a regulation in its current form and will have to abstain when it is submitted to the Council for approval.