



Brussels, 6 July 2018  
(OR. en)

10862/18

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**Interinstitutional File:**  
**2017/0137 (NLE)**

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**WTO 180**  
**AGRI 338**  
**UD 155**  
**COASI 178**

**'I/A' ITEM NOTE**

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From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Permanent Representatives Committee/Council
Subject:	Draft Council Decision on the conclusion of the Agreement in the form of an Exchange of Letters between the European Union and New Zealand pursuant to Article XXIV:6 and Article XXVIII of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) 1994 relating to the modification of concessions in the schedule of the Republic of Croatia in the course of its accession to the European Union - Adoption

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1. On 22 June 2017, the Commission submitted to the Council a proposal for a Council Decision on the signing<sup>1</sup>, on behalf of the European Union, of the Agreement in the form of an Exchange of Letters between the European Union and New Zealand pursuant to Article XXIV:6 and Article XXVIII of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) 1994 relating to the modification of concessions in the schedule of the Republic of Croatia in the course of its accession to the European Union, as well as a proposal for a Council Decision on the conclusion<sup>2</sup> of that Agreement.

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<sup>1</sup> Doc. 10655/17 WTO 142 AGRI 353 UD 165 COASI 76 + ADD 1.

<sup>2</sup> Doc. 10656/17 WTO 143 AGRI 354 UD 166 COASI 77 + ADD 1.

2. On 17 July 2017, the Council adopted the Decision on the signing<sup>3</sup> 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 finalised by the legal-linguistic experts and set out in document 10670/17 WTO 145 AGRI 357 UD 168 COASI 79, together with the Agreement itself<sup>4</sup>, to the European Parliament for its consent, with a view to preparing for the future conclusion of the Agreement.
3. The Agreement with New Zealand was signed on 13 March 2018.
4. On 4 July 2018, the European Parliament provided its consent to the conclusion of the Agreement.
5. On 6 July 2018, the Trade Policy Committee (Deputies) endorsed the draft Council Decision on the conclusion of the Agreement.
6. In light of the above, and subject to confirmation by the Permanent Representatives' Committee, the Council is invited to:
  - adopt, as an "A" item on the agenda of one of its forthcoming meetings, the draft Council Decision on the conclusion of the Agreement as finalised by the legal-linguistic experts and set out in document 10670/17 WTO 145 AGRI 357 UD 168 COASI 79;
  - 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.

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<sup>3</sup> Doc. 10669/17 WTO 144 AGRI 356 UD 167 COASI 78 (published in OJ L 191, 22.7.2017, p. 1).

<sup>4</sup> Doc. 10672/17 WTO 146 AGRI 358 UD 169 COASI 80.