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'I/A' ITEM NOTE

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

Subject: Draft Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the action of the Union following its accession to the Geneva Act of the Lisbon Agreement on Appellations of Origin and Geographical Indications (**first reading**)
- Adoption of the legislative act
= Statements

Statement by Germany, France, Portugal and Poland

We support the European Union's planned accession to the Geneva Act of the Lisbon Agreement on Appellations of Origin and Geographical Indications (GIs), in order for it to properly exercise its exclusive competence for appellations of origin and geographical indications in the Lisbon system. Upon accession, the EU will undertake to recognise a protection system which covers non-agricultural products, too. It is therefore essential that designations for non-agricultural products be afforded protection in the EU as soon as possible. We ask the Commission to submit a proposal for a regulation to this effect shortly after the EU's accession to the Geneva Act.

Statement by Denmark and Sweden

Denmark and Sweden support the objective of ensuring a high level of protection and enforcement of intellectual property rights, though the primary focus should be on the fundamental intellectual property rights. We are still not convinced as to the potential of the EU's accession to the Geneva Act of the Lisbon Agreement on Appellations of Origin and Geographical Indications. Denmark and Sweden can however accept the present compromise proposal, as the proposal does not go beyond the scope of the current protection under EU law.

Statement by the Netherlands

The Netherlands supports the European Union's planned accession to the Geneva Act of the Lisbon Agreement on Appellations of Origin and Geographical Indications (GIs), in order for it to properly exercise its exclusive competence for appellations of origin and geographical indications in the Lisbon system. The Netherlands accepts the present compromise proposal, as the proposal does not go beyond the scope of the current protection under EU law.
