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**AELE 28  
CH 14  
AGRILEG 69  
VETER 41  
AGRI 226**

**'I/A' ITEM NOTE**

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From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Permanent Representatives Committee (Part 1)/Council
No. prev. doc.:	15460/17
No. Cion doc.:	14047/17 + ADD 1
Subject:	COUNCIL DECISION on the position to be taken on behalf of the European Union within the Joint Veterinary Committee set up by the Agreement between the European Community and the Swiss Confederation on trade in agricultural products in relation to Decision No 1/2018 regarding the amendment of Appendix 6 of Annex 11 to the Agreement – <i>Adoption</i>

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1. On 6 November 2017, the Commission submitted to the Council the above-mentioned proposal<sup>1</sup>, on the basis of Article 207(4) TFEU in conjunction with Article 218(9) TFEU.
2. The aim of the proposal is to extend indefinitely the possibility for the Swiss Confederation to derogate under certain conditions from the *Trichinella* examination of carcasses and meat of domestic swine. Due to the late submission of the proposal, its adoption by the Council and the subsequent signature of the agreement before the expiry of the previously granted derogation was not possible.

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<sup>1</sup> 14047/17 + ADD 1

3. The proposal was examined by the Working Party of Veterinary Experts (Potsdam Group) at its meeting of 1 December 2017. Following the advice of the Council Legal Service, delegations agreed that the text should be revised to take into account the need for the proposed Decision No 1/2018 of the Joint Veterinary Committee to apply retroactively as from 1 January 2017, as well as to correct a reference to existing EU legislation. A revised draft<sup>2</sup> was circulated by the Presidency on 6 December 2017. Following an informal written procedure<sup>3</sup>, the revised draft was considered as unanimously supported by delegations.
4. The Working Party on European Free Trade Association (EFTA) was informed at its meeting of 12 December 2017, where no further comments were raised by delegations. Subsequently, the references to Swiss legislation were checked informally with the Swiss authorities, which confirmed their accuracy on 2 May 2018.
5. In view of the above, the Permanent Representatives Committee is invited to:
  - confirm the agreement reached at the Working Party on the text, and
  - recommend that the Council adopt, as an 'A' item on the agenda of a forthcoming meeting, the above-mentioned Decision as set out in doc. 14048/17 REV 1 (the final document which has undergone legal-linguistic revision).

The European Parliament will be informed in accordance with Article 218(10) TFEU and the Decision will be transmitted to the EP.

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<sup>2</sup> 15460/17

<sup>3</sup> WK 14468/17 + ADD 1