Council of the European Union

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'I' ITEM NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Permanent Representatives Committee (Part 1)
No. Cion doc.:	11515/18 + COR1
Subject:	Proposal for a 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 - Optional consultation of the European Economic and Social Committee and Committee of Regions

1. On 27 July 2018, the Commission submitted to the Council a Proposal for a 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 the Appellations of Origin and Geographical Indications[1]. This proposal is related to the Commission proposal for a Council Decision on the Union's accession to the Geneva Act of the Lisbon Agreement on Appellations of Origin and Geographical Indications (the "Geneva Act")[2].

[1] 11515/18 + COR1
[2] 11510/18 + ADD1

2. The aim of the proposed Regulation is to ensure the legal framework for effective participation of the Union in the WIPO (World Intellectual Property Organization) Lisbon Union once the Union will have become a Contracting Party to the Geneva Act.

3. The present proposal, which is based on Article 207 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, does not require the opinion of the European Economic and Social Committee nor that of the Committee of Regions. However, given the scope of the proposed Regulation, which concerns the recognition of the protection of appellations of origin and geographical indications of products among contracting parties of the Geneva Act, it seems appropriate to consult the two Committees on an optional basis.

4. Coreper is therefore invited to decide, pursuant to Article 304 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union and Article 19(7)(h) of the Council's Rules of Procedure, to consult European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions on the above proposal and to request them to give their opinions as soon as possible.