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LIMITE

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**'I/A' ITEM NOTE**

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From: General Secretariat of the Council  
To: Permanent Representatives Committee (Part 2)/Council  
Subject: Joint ministerial declaration of the EU and the parties to the  
Comprehensive and Progressive Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP)  
- Authorisation to negotiate a non-binding instrument

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1. The CPTPP ministerial statement of 16 May 2025 expressed the intention of the parties to the CPTPP to work towards a dialogue on trade and investment with the EU. At the Foreign Affairs (Trade) Council meeting on 14 July 2025, Commissioner Šefčovič confirmed the Commission's intention to work towards such a dialogue.
2. On 22 September 2025, the Trade Policy Committee (Deputies) was informed by the Commission, in a note, of its intention to commence negotiations with the parties to the CPTPP on a non-binding instrument in the form of a joint ministerial declaration. This declaration should in particular reaffirm the parties' commitment to rules-based trade and set an agenda for cooperation on trade and investment issues. It could be released on 20 or 21 November 2025.

3. At the meeting of the Trade Policy Committee (Deputies) on 25 September 2025, the Commission provided additional information to delegations. No delegation opposed the Commission's intention mentioned above.
4. It is expected that the Commission will regularly inform the Trade Policy Committee (Deputies) of the progress made in the negotiations.
5. It is understood that the Commission will revert at the end of the negotiations to obtain, in accordance with Union law, an authorisation from the Council for the approval, on behalf of the Union, of a non-binding instrument in the form of a joint ministerial declaration that should result from the negotiations.
6. In view of the above, the Permanent Representatives Committee is invited to:
  - confirm its agreement for the Commission to negotiate, on behalf of the Union, a joint ministerial declaration with the parties to the CPTPP; and
  - recommend that the Council authorises, as an 'A' item at a forthcoming meeting, the Commission to negotiate, on behalf of the Union, this joint ministerial declaration.