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'I' ITEM NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Permanent Representatives Committee
Subject:	Draft REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL on the elimination of customs duties on certain products **(first reading)** - Decision to use the written procedure for the adoption of the legislative act

1. On 8 September 2020 the Commission sent its proposal[1], based on Article 207(2) TFEU, to the Council.

2. On 26 November 2020 the European Parliament adopted its position at first reading on the Commission proposal. The outcome of voting in the European Parliament reflects the compromise agreement reached between the institutions and should, therefore, be acceptable to the Council[2].

[1] 10591/20.
[2] 13368/20.

3. Due to the special circumstances, the Permanent Representatives Committee is invited to decide, in accordance with the first subparagraph of Article 12(1) of the Council's Rules of Procedure and Article 1 of Council Decision (EU) 2020/1659[3], that the Council uses the written procedure for the adoption of the draft Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the elimination of customs duties on certain products, as set out in document PE- CONS 44/20.

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[3] Council Decision (EU) 2020/1659 of 6 November 2020 further extending the temporary derogation from the Council's Rules of Procedure introduced by Decision (EU) 2020/430, and extended by Decisions (EU) 2020/556, (EU) 2020/702, (EU) 2020/970 and (EU) 2020/1253, in view of the travel difficulties caused by the COVID-19 pandemic in the Union (OJ L 376, 10.11.2020, p. 3–4)