



Council of the
European Union

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'I/A' ITEM NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council

To: Permanent Representatives Committee/Council

No. Cion doc.: 6099/21 + ADD 1

Subject: Council Decision on the conclusion, on behalf of the Union, of the Agreement in the form of an Exchange of Letters between the European Union and the Commonwealth of Australia pursuant to Article XXVIII of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) 1994 relating to the modification of concessions on all the tariff-rate quotas included in the EU Schedule CLXXV as a consequence of the United Kingdom's withdrawal from the European Union

- Adoption

1. On 10 February 2021, the Commission submitted to the Council a proposal for a Council Decision on the signing¹, on behalf of the Union, of the Agreement in the form of an Exchange of Letters between the European Union and the Commonwealth of Australia pursuant to Article XXVIII of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) 1994 relating to the modification of concessions on all the tariff-rate quotas included in the EU Schedule CLXXV as a consequence of the United Kingdom's withdrawal from the European Union, as well as a proposal for a Council Decision on the conclusion² of that Agreement.

¹ ST 6098/21 + ADD 1.

² ST 6099/21 + ADD 1.

2. On 22 March 2021, the Council adopted the Decision on the signing³ of the Agreement. At the same time and in accordance with Article 218(6)(a)(v) TFEU, the Council decided to forward the draft Decision on the conclusion of the Agreement, as finalised by the legal-linguistic experts and set out in document 6102/21, together with the Agreement itself⁴, to the European Parliament for its consent, with a view to preparing for the future conclusion of the Agreement.
3. The Agreement with the Commonwealth of Australia was signed on 4 October 2021.
4. On 11 November 2021, the European Parliament provided its consent to the conclusion of the Agreement.
5. The Trade Policy Committee (Deputies) was consulted in writing, and endorsed the draft Council Decision on the conclusion of the Agreement.
6. In light of the above, and subject to confirmation by the Permanent Representatives Committee, the Council is invited to:
 - adopt, as an "A" item on the agenda of one of its forthcoming meetings, the Council Decision on the conclusion of the Agreement as finalised by the legal-linguistic experts and set out in document 6102/21; and
 - note that the European Parliament will be informed in accordance with Article 218(10) TFEU, and that the Council Decision will be transmitted to the European Parliament.

³ ST 6101/21 (published in OJ L 104, 25.3.2021, p. 27).

⁴ ST 6103/21.