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NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Permanent Representatives Committee
No. prev. doc.:	12304/25 + ADD 1 + ADD 1 COR 1 + COR 1
Subject:	Proposal for a REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL on the non-application of customs duties on imports of certain goods - Mandate for negotiations with the European Parliament

I. INTRODUCTION

1. In light of the Joint Statement of 21 August 2020 of the European Union and the United States on a Tariff Agreement¹, on 16 December 2020, the European Parliament and the Council adopted the Regulation (EU) 2020/2131 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the elimination of customs duties on certain goods², in particular, certain types of lobster. That Regulation expired on 31 July 2025.

¹ https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/statement_20_1512

² Regulation (EU) 2020/2131 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 December 2020 on the elimination of customs duties on certain goods (OJ L 430, 18.12.2020)

2. On 27 July 2025, the European Union and the United States reached a political agreement as regards their trade relationship. On 21 August 2025, they issued a Joint Statement which announced the European Union and United States Framework on an Agreement on Reciprocal, Fair and Balanced Trade³ (“Joint Statement”).
3. To advance the implementation of the Union’s political commitments under the Joint Statement, on 28 August 2025, the Commission submitted to the Council and the European Parliament a proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the non-application of customs duties on imports of certain goods⁴. The objective of the proposal is to ensure the continuity with the Regulation (EU) 2020/2131.
4. The draft Regulation is based on Article 207 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU).
5. In the European Parliament, the Committee on International Trade (INTA) has the lead responsibility, with AGRI and BUDG Committees being involved. MEP Bernd LANGE (S&D, DE, INTA) was appointed rapporteur, and his report was debated in INTA on 4 November 2025. INTA Committee is expected to adopt the mandate for negotiations early 2026.

II. WORK WITHIN THE COUNCIL

6. On 4 September 2025, the Commission presented the proposal to the Trade Policy Committee (Deputies) and a first exchange of views took place.
7. Subsequently, the Committee examined the proposal at its meeting on 25 September and 20 November 2025 when it concluded the technical work and agreed to the proposal of the Commission without modifications.

³ https://policy.trade.ec.europa.eu/news/joint-statement-united-states-european-union-framework-agreement-reciprocal-fair-and-balanced-trade-2025-08-21_en

⁴ ST 12304/25 + COR1 + ADD1 +ADD1 COR1.

III. CONCLUSIONS

8. In light of the above, the Permanent Representatives Committee is invited to confirm agreement on the text of the mandate for negotiations with the European Parliament as set out in doc. 12304/25 + COR 1 + ADD1 + ADD1 COR1, to enable the Presidency to conduct those negotiations.
 9. In accordance with the approach to legislative transparency endorsed by Coreper on 14 July 2020⁵, and in full consistency with Regulation (EC) 1049/2001 and the Council's Rules of Procedure, the text of the mandate thus agreed will be made public unless the Permanent Representatives Committee objects.
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⁵ Document 9493/20.