Council of the European Union

Brussels, 22 November 2023
(OR. en)

15504/23

Interinstitutional File:
2023/0038(NLE)

POLCOM 276
SERVICES 51
FDI 31
COASI 200

'I/A' ITEM NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Permanent Representatives Committee (Part 2)/Council
No. Cion doc.:	ST 6598/23 + ADD 1-5
Subject:	Council Decision on the conclusion, on behalf of the Union, of the Free Trade Agreement between the European Union and New Zealand - Adoption

1. On 17 February 2023, the Commission submitted to the Council a proposal for a Council Decision on the signing[1], on behalf of the Union, of the Free Trade Agreement between the European Union and New Zealand, as well as a proposal for a Council Decision on the conclusion[2] of that Agreement.

2. On 27 June 2023, the Council adopted the Decision on the signing[3] of the Agreement. At the same time and in accordance with Article 218(6), second subparagraph, point (a)(v) of the 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 6600/23, together with the Agreement itself[4], to the European Parliament for its consent, with a view to preparing for the future conclusion of the Agreement.

[1] ST 6597/23 + ADD 1-5.
[2] ST 6598/23 + ADD 1-5.
[3] ST 6599/23 (published in OJ L 166, 30.6.2023, p. 48).
[4] ST 6601/23 + COR 1 + ADD 1-13 + ADD 3 REV 1 (including the corrections contained in document ST 12190/23 + REV 1).

3. The Agreement with New Zealand was signed on 9 July 2023.

4. On 20 November 2023, the Trade Policy Committee (Deputies) endorsed the draft Council Decision on the conclusion of the Agreement, by way of written consultation, pending the outcome of the European Parliament's vote on the consent.

5. On 22 November 2023, the European Parliament gave its consent to 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 Decision on the conclusion of the Agreement as finalised by the legal-linguistic experts and set out in document 6600/23;

   - 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; and

   - take note of the statements contained in the addendum to this note.