Council of the European Union

Brussels, 16 February 2024
(OR. en)

6302/24

Interinstitutional File: 2024/0029(COD)

LIMITE

POLCOM 46
COEST 107
AGRI 82
CODEC 342

PUBLIC

NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Permanent Representatives Committee
No. Cion doc.:	5999/24
Subject:	Proposal for a REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL on temporary trade-liberalisation measures supplementing trade concessions applicable to products from the Republic of Moldova under the Association Agreement between the European Union and the European Atomic Energy Community and their Member States, of the one part, and the Republic of Moldova, of the other part - Mandate for negotiations with the European Parliament

1. On 31 January 2024, the European Commission submitted the above-mentioned proposal (ST 5999/24) to the Council.

2. The proposal aims to renew the suspension for another year import duties and quotas on Moldovan exports to the EU for the seven products that have not been liberalised under the Deep and Comprehensive Trade Agreement between the EU and Moldova and replaces the previous measures to support EU-Moldova trade that are in force since 25 July 2023[1] and applies until 24 July 2024.

[1] Regulation (EU) 2023/1524 of the European Parliament and of the Council on temporary trade-liberalisation measures supplementing trade concessions applicable to products from the Republic of Moldova under the Association Agreement between the European Union and the European Atomic Energy Community and their Member States, of the one part, and the Republic of Moldova, of the other part (OJ L 185, 24.7.2023, p. 1).

3. The Trade Policy Committee (Deputies and Full Members) examined the proposal at its meetings on 5, 8 and 15 February 2024. During those discussions, the majority of delegations expressed their support for the proposal without any modifications and called for a rapid adoption of the legal act. Only one delegation, however, expressed concerns and suggested certain modifications in respect of the proposal. Further to these discussions, the Presidency proposed to approve the proposal without any modifications.

4. The European Parliament's Committee on International Trade (INTA) intends to hold a vote on the proposal at its meeting on 7 March 2024. The European Parliament aims to adopt its position at first reading in one of its plenary sessions in April 2024.

5. In the light of the above, the Permanent Representatives Committee is invited to approve the text of the Commission's proposal without any modifications, with a view to reaching an agreement at first reading with the European Parliament.

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