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NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Permanent Representatives Committee

No. Cion doc.: 5765/25 + ADD 1

Subject: Proposal for a REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL on the modification of customs duties applicable to imports of certain goods originating in or exported directly or indirectly from the Russian Federation and the Republic of Belarus
- Mandate for negotiations with the European Parliament

1. On 28 January 2025, the European Commission submitted the above-mentioned proposal (ST 5765/25 + ADD 1) to the Council.
2. The aim of the proposal is to increase the customs duties applicable to imports of certain agricultural goods as well as of certain fertilisers originating in or exported directly or indirectly from the Russian Federation or the Republic of Belarus. The proposal also intends to gradually avoid the development of dependencies on imports of such goods from Russia and Belarus (particularly on nitrogen-based fertilisers) that could make the EU vulnerable to potential coercive action and, as such, could impair the EU's food security.

3. The proposal follows the European Council Conclusions of October 2024 to “further limit Russia’s ability to wage war, including by further sanctions and, as called for and in line with the European Council conclusions of April 2024, import tariffs on Russian and Belarusian agricultural products”.
4. The Trade Policy Committee (Deputies and Full Members) examined the proposal at its meetings on 30 January, 14, 20 27 February and 4 March 2025. 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 indicated their opposition to the proposal. Consequently, the Presidency proposed to approve the proposal without any modifications.
5. The European Parliament’s Committee on International Trade (INTA) intends to hold a vote on the proposal at its meeting on 14 May 2025. The European Parliament aims to adopt its position at first reading in its plenary sessions in May 2025.
6. 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.