



Council of the
European Union

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'I/A' ITEM NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Permanent Representatives Committee/Council
Subject:	Council Decision authorising the opening of negotiations with the Swiss Confederation on institutional provisions in agreements between the European Union and the Swiss Confederation related to the internal market, on an agreement on the Swiss Confederation's participation in Union programmes and on an agreement that forms the basis for the Swiss Confederation's permanent contribution to the Union's cohesion

1. On 20 December 2023, the Commission submitted the above-mentioned proposal to the Council¹.
2. The proposal was discussed at the meetings of the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) Working Party of 10 and 23 January 2024, 6 and 14 February 2024. On 5 March 2024, the Working Party on European Free Trade Association (EFTA) agreed on the substance of a revised proposal.

¹ ST 17059/23 + ADD 1.

3. The Permanent Representatives Committee is called on to confirm the agreement reached at the level of the EFTA Working Party and to invite the Council to:

- adopt the Council Decision authorising the opening of negotiations with the Swiss Confederation on institutional provisions in agreements between the European Union and the Swiss Confederation related to the internal market, on an agreement on the Swiss Confederation's participation in Union programmes and on an agreement that forms the basis for the Swiss Confederation's permanent contribution to the Union's cohesion as well as the directives for the negotiation, as set out in documents 7031/24 + ADD1;
- decide to publish the decision and the directives for the negotiation in the Official Journal, in accordance with article 17(2)(b) of its rules of procedures;
- note that the European Parliament will be informed in accordance with Article 218(10) TFEU, and that the Council Decision and the directives for the negotiation will be transmitted to the Parliament.