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'I' ITEM 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 (First reading) - Confirmation of the final compromise text with a view to agreement

1. On 31 January 2024[1], the European Commission submitted the above-mentioned proposal to the Council.

2. The proposal aims to suspend for one more 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[2].

[1] ST 5999/24

[2] 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, a large number of delegations expressed their support for the proposal without any modifications and called for a rapid adoption of the legal act. Some delegations, 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. On 21 February 2024, the Permanent Representatives Committee approved the text of the Commission's proposal without any modifications, with a view to reaching an agreement at first reading with the European Parliament[3].

5. On 7 March 2024, the European Parliament's Committee on International Trade (INTA) approved the Commission's proposal without any amendments. The European Parliament aims to adopt its position at first reading during the plenary session of 11-14 March 2024.

6. In the light of the above, the Permanent Representatives Committee is invited to:

   - confirm agreement on the text of the Commission's proposal without any modifications, with a view to reaching an agreement at first reading with the European Parliament; and

   - authorise the Chair of the Permanent Representatives Committee to send a letter to inform the Chair of the European Parliament's INTA Committee that, should the European Parliament adopt its position at first reading in the exact form as set out in the Commission's proposal, and subject to revision of that text by the lawyer-linguists of both institutions, the Council will approve the European Parliament's position and the act will be adopted in the wording which corresponds to the European Parliament's position.

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[3] ST 6302/24