



Council of the  
European Union

Brussels, 2 June 2021  
(OR. en)

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**Interinstitutional File:  
2021/0121(NLE)**

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**8780/21  
ADD 1**

**WTO 135  
COWEB 58  
AGRI 222**

**'I/A' ITEM NOTE**

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| From:          | General Secretariat of the Council  |
| To:            | Permanent Representatives Committee/Council   |
| No. Cion doc.: | 8779/21 WTO 134 COWEB 57 AGRI 221   |
| Subject:       | Council Decision on the position to be taken on behalf of the European Union within the General Council of the World Trade Organization on the European Union request for an extension of the WTO waiver permitting autonomous trade preferences to the Western Balkans<br>- Adoption |

**Statement by the Commission**

The Commission considers that the Council Decision should be addressed to the Commission, and therefore considers the changes to Article 2 to be inappropriate.

The expression of the Union position in a body set up by an agreement is an act of external representation of the Union which, in accordance with Article 17(1) TEU, is the institutional prerogative of the Commission.

The Commission reserves all its rights in this regard.