Council of the European Union
General Secretariat

PUBLIC

Brussels, 21 January 2020

WK 659/2020 INIT

LIMITE

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From:	LV Delegation
To:	Working Party on Trade Questions
Subject:	Amended Enforcement Regulation - Comments by Latvia

Latvia's preliminary comments

on the Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulation (EU) No 654/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning the exercise of the Union's rights for the application and enforcement of international trade rules

[Amendment of the Enforcement Regulation]

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Latvia submits its preliminary comments on the Amendment of the Enforcement Regulation.

Latvia's understanding is that not only amendments but also any introduced commercial policy measures of the EU under the amended Enforcement Regulation must be in line with the WTO rules.

Latvia would welcome clarification from the Commission on how compatibility with WTO rules of such EU measures under amended Enforcement Regulation can be ensured. For example, Article 22 of the Understanding on Rules and Procedures Governing the Settlement of Disputes (DSU) requires authorization from the DSB to suspend the application of concessions or other obligations. It also sets the procedure for setting the level of suspension, including referral to arbitration, if the Member concerned objects to the level of suspension proposed.

Latvia shares the view of the Commission that there is no need of an expansion of the Regulation to area of services or intellectual property.

With regards to parts of proposal relating to bilateral trade agreements Latvia still continues examination of those provisions and might provide its comments at a later stage.

Latvia would like to reiterate that reaching a permanent solution to two level dispute settlement in the WTO must remain a main goal of the EU in this context.

We reserve the right to submit further questions and/or comments on these or other areas of the draft proposal.