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LIMITE

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NOTE

From: Presidency
To: Permanent Representatives Committee/Council
Subject: Draft Council Conclusions on EU-US TTIP negotiations
- Adoption

1. On 24 October 2014 the Presidency proposed draft Council Conclusions on the TTIP. The conclusions were discussed in the Trade Policy Committee (Full Members) on 7 November 2014 and the Coreper on 12 November 2014.
2. As resulting from the proceedings of the Coreper, the Trade Policy Committee (Deputies) discussed the matter again on 14 November 2014. In light of those discussions, the Presidency submitted a revised text to an informal silence procedure which was concluded successfully.
3. Coreper is therefore invited to ask the Council to adopt the draft Council Conclusions set out in ANNEX.

DRAFT COUNCIL CONCLUSIONS ON TTIP

1. Enhancing sustainable growth and jobs is a key priority for the EU. Trade in goods and services and investment can make a significant contribution in this respect. In this context, the Council reiterates the fundamental role of a deep, ambitious, balanced and mutually beneficial TTIP Agreement with the United States, which will provide significant new opportunities for citizens and companies in the EU and the US. This will help boost job creation and economic growth by enhancing trade and investment between the two sides of the Atlantic, while ensuring our right to regulate and maintaining a high level of standards consistent with the EU acquis and Member States' legislation. The Council also recognises the importance of TTIP as a strategic cornerstone of our transatlantic partnership, which will make a valuable contribution to shaping globalisation and the international trading system and to supporting sustainable development.
2. The Council underlines the importance to better communicate the scope and the benefits of the agreement and to enhance transparency and dialogue with civil society in order to highlight the benefits for European citizens and the opportunities it would create for EU companies, in particular small and medium sized businesses. The Council underlines the importance of maintaining the positive efforts undertaken so far and the need to approach the US side to discuss meaningful possibilities to improve transparency, including the access to all negotiating documents in order to let Member States develop constructive discussions with civil society.
3. The Council reconfirms its strong expectation of concluding a deep, ambitious, balanced and mutually beneficial agreement on all three pillars of the negotiations as soon as feasible, according to the Council mandate. To achieve this aim, it is essential to have clear and strong political support for the negotiations by both parties which will boost TTIP talks and facilitate the conclusion of the agreement according to a positive timeline.