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'I/A' ITEM NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Permanent Representatives Committee/Council

Subject: Draft REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL implementing the bilateral safeguard clauses of the EU-Mercosur Partnership Agreement and the EU-Mercosur Interim Trade Agreement for agricultural products **(first reading)**
- Adoption of the legislative act
= Statements

Latvia has requested that the following statement be entered in the Council minutes

Latvia supports the Regulation implementing the bilateral safeguard clause of the EU-Mercosur Partnership Agreement and the EU-Mercosur Interim Trade Agreement for agricultural products. Latvia welcomes a swift provisional application of the EU-Mercosur agreement, considering it an important step in strengthening EU's trade diversification interests.

However, Latvia points out that the concerns expressed by EU farmers about the possible risks caused by the EU-Mercosur agreement must be taken seriously. It is essential to ensure that safeguard measures are applied effectively and without delay and that appropriate instruments are in place to provide immediate support to farmers coping with disturbances in agricultural markets. This is particularly important if, as a result of the agreement, imports from Mercosur cause difficulties (serious injury) to agriculture producers across the EU or within one or more Member States, including through loss of market share or reductions in income or prices.

Hungary has requested that the following statement be entered in the Council minutes

Given the significant sensitivities associated with the EU-Mercosur Partnership Agreement and the Interim Trade Agreement, Hungary deems it necessary to lay down procedures to guarantee the timely and effective implementation of safeguard measures for agricultural products. However, the Commission's proposal implementing the bilateral safeguard clause of the EU-Mercosur Agreement does not provide sufficient protection for smaller Member States, including Hungary.

The proposed Regulation does not include the possibility to address market disruptions at regional level, as the Commission will examine the existence of serious injury or threat thereof only at EU level. This creates a situation where Member States with smaller markets, including Hungary, will not be able to enforce their rights under the Regulation.

The bilateral safeguard clause included in the EU-Mercosur Agreement and the proposed Regulation does not in itself provide adequate protection against cheaper imports from Mercosur countries, therefore additional guarantees are necessary.

Hungary made various proposals to improve the effectiveness of the Regulation; however, these proposals were not taken into account.

As the proposed Regulation does not address our concerns in relation to the EU-Mercosur Agreement and does not provide adequate protection for our agriculture sector, Hungary cannot support the adoption of the Regulation without modifications.
