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*Plenary sitting*

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**A9-0257/2022**

26.10.2022

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## **RECOMMENDATION**

on the proposal for a Council decision on the conclusion on behalf of the European Union, of an agreement on the modification of schedules of specific commitments under the General Agreement on Trade in Services to incorporate Annex 1 of the Declaration on the Conclusion of Negotiations on Services Domestic Regulation of 2 December 2021 (COM(2022)0257 – C9-0224/2022 – 2022/0174(NLE))

Committee on International Trade

Rapporteur: Bernd Lange

***Symbols for procedures***

- \* Consultation procedure
- \*\*\* Consent procedure
- \*\*\*I Ordinary legislative procedure (first reading)
- \*\*\*II Ordinary legislative procedure (second reading)
- \*\*\*III Ordinary legislative procedure (third reading)

(The type of procedure depends on the legal basis proposed by the draft act.)

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## DRAFT EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION

**on the proposal for a Council decision on the conclusion on behalf of the European Union, of an agreement on the modification of schedules of specific commitments under the General Agreement on Trade in Services to incorporate Annex 1 of the Declaration on the Conclusion of Negotiations on Services Domestic Regulation of 2 December 2021 (COM(2022)0257 – C9-0224/2022 – 2022/0174(NLE))**

**(Consent)**

*The European Parliament,*

- having regard to the proposal for a Council decision (COM(2022)0257),
  - having regard to the draft agreement on the modification of schedules of specific commitments under the General Agreement on Trade in Services to incorporate Annex 1 of the Declaration on the Conclusion of Negotiations on Services Domestic Regulation of 2 December 2021 (09982/2022),
  - having regard to the request for consent submitted by the Council in accordance with Article 91, Article 100(2), Article 207 and Article 218(6), second subparagraph, point (a) (v), of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (C9-0224/2022),
  - having regard to Rule 105(1) and (4), and Rule 114(7) of its Rules of Procedure,
  - having regard to the recommendation of the Committee on International Trade (A9-0257/2022),
1. Gives its consent to the conclusion of the agreement;
  2. Instructs its President to forward its position to the Council, the Commission and the governments and parliaments of the Member States and of World Trade Organization.

## EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

Article VI of the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS) contains a built-in mandate to develop necessary disciplines with a view to ensuring that measures relating to qualification requirements and procedures, technical standards and licensing requirements do not constitute unnecessary barriers to trade in services. The Members of the World Trade Organization (WTO) have been negotiating such domestic regulation disciplines for many years.

At MC11 and later on, a group of 59 WTO Members, including the European Union, issued a Joint Ministerial Statement on Services Domestic Regulation reaffirming their commitment to advancing negotiations on services domestic regulation, with a view to incorporating the outcome of the work into their respective schedules of specific commitments by the 12<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Conference.

The negotiations of this Joint Statement Initiative were successfully concluded on 2 December 2021, which marks the first plurilateral agreement to be successfully agreed upon and the first outcome in the area of services in more than 20 years.

In a Declaration on the Conclusion of Negotiations on Services Domestic Regulation issued on 2 December 2021 ('the Declaration'), 67 WTO Members noted the conclusion of the negotiations on the Reference Paper which forms Annex 1 of the Declaration. They also welcomed the Schedules of Specific Commitments which were submitted as their contributions to finalise the negotiations. Those 67 WTO members account for more than 90% of the global trade in services.

The participants to the Declaration confirmed their intention to incorporate the disciplines agreed on as additional commitments into their GATS Schedules. Subject to the completion of any required domestic procedures, the participants aim to submit their Schedules of Specific Commitments for certification, within twelve months of the date of the Declaration. Through the certification, the participants will give legal effect to the disciplines of Annex 1 of the Declaration.

The economic impact of this agreement for which the main beneficiaries would be SMEs and women entrepreneurs, would be significant. The transparent approval systems should also benefit developing countries. Furthermore, the agreement includes both the US and China among its participants. Given all this, the rapporteur believes that the INTA committee as the committee in charge and the European Parliament as an EU institution with prerogatives in the area of international agreements, should approve this agreement and therefore give its consent.

## PROCEDURE – COMMITTEE RESPONSIBLE

<b>Title</b>	Conclusion, on behalf of the European Union, of an agreement on the modification of schedules of specific commitments under the General Agreement on Trade in Services to incorporate Annex 1 of the Declaration on the Conclusion of Negotiations on Services Domestic Regulation of 2 December 2021
<b>References</b>	09982/2022 – C9-0224/2022 – 2022/0174(NLE)
<b>Date of consultation or request for consent</b>	12.7.2022
<b>Committee responsible</b> Date announced in plenary	INTA 12.9.2022
<b>Rapporteurs</b> Date appointed	Bernd Lange 14.7.2022
<b>Discussed in committee</b>	10.10.2022
<b>Date adopted</b>	25.10.2022
<b>Result of final vote</b>	+: 31 –: 5 0: 0
<b>Members present for the final vote</b>	Barry Andrews, Anna-Michelle Asimakopoulou, Geert Bourgeois, Saskia Bricmont, Udo Bullmann, Jordi Cañas, Arnaud Danjean, Paolo De Castro, Raphaël Glucksmann, Markéta Gregorová, Roman Haider, Christophe Hansen, Danuta Maria Hübner, Herve Juvin, Karin Karlsbro, Margarida Marques, Gabriel Mato, Sara Matthieu, Carles Puigdemont i Casamajó, Samira Rafaela, Catharina Rinzema, Inma Rodríguez-Piñero, Massimiliano Salini, Ernő Schaller-Baross, Helmut Scholz, Mihai Tudose, Kathleen Van Brempt, Marie-Pierre Vedrenne, Jörgen Warborn, Iuliu Winkler, Juan Ignacio Zoido Álvarez
<b>Substitutes present for the final vote</b>	Yannick Jadot, Seán Kelly, Javier Moreno Sánchez, Joachim Schuster, Ralf Seekatz
<b>Date tabled</b>	26.10.2022

## FINAL VOTE BY ROLL CALL IN COMMITTEE RESPONSIBLE

31	+
ECR	Geert Bourgeois
ID	Roman Haider, Herve Juvin
NI	Carles Puigdemont i Casamajó, Ernő Schaller-Baross
PPE	Anna-Michelle Asimakopoulou, Arnaud Danjean, Christophe Hansen, Danuta Maria Hübner, Seán Kelly, Gabriel Mato, Massimiliano Salini, Ralf Seekatz, Jörgen Warborn, Iuliu Winkler, Juan Ignacio Zoido Álvarez
RENEW	Barry Andrews, Jordi Cañas, Karin Karlsbro, Samira Rafaela, Catharina Rinzema, Marie-Pierre Vedrenne
S&D	Udo Bullmann, Paolo De Castro, Raphaël Glucksmann, Margarida Marques, Javier Moreno Sánchez, Inma Rodríguez-Piñero, Joachim Schuster, Mihai Tudose, Kathleen Van Brempt

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THE LEFT	Helmut Scholz
VERTS/ALE	Saskia Bricmont, Markéta Gregorová, Yannick Jadot, Sara Matthieu

0	0

Key to symbols:

+ : in favour

- : against

0 : abstention