



Plenary sitting

A8-0029/2018

22.2.2018

RECOMMENDATION

on the draft Council decision on the conclusion, on behalf of the European Union, of the Agreement between the European Union and New Zealand on cooperation and mutual administrative assistance in customs matters (07712/2016 – C8-0237/2017 – 2016/0006(NLE))

Committee on International Trade

Rapporteur: Daniel Caspary

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.)

CONTENTS

Page

DRAFT EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION.....	5
EXPLANATORY STATEMENT.....	6
PROCEDURE – COMMITTEE RESPONSIBLE.....	7
FINAL VOTE BY ROLL CALL IN COMMITTEE RESPONSIBLE.....	8

DRAFT EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION

**on the draft Council decision on the conclusion, on behalf of the European Union, of the Agreement between the European Union and New Zealand on cooperation and mutual administrative assistance in customs matters
(07712/2016 – C8-0237/2017 – 2016/0006(NLE))**

(Consent)

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the draft Council decision (07712/2016),
 - having regard to the draft Agreement between the European Union and New Zealand on cooperation and mutual administrative assistance in customs matters (07682/2016),
 - having regard to the request for consent submitted by the Council in accordance with Article 207 and Article 218(6), second subparagraph, point (a), of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (C8-0237/2017),
 - having regard to Rule 99(1) and (4), and Rule 108(7) of its Rules of Procedure,
 - having regard to the recommendation of the Committee on International Trade (A8-0029/2018),
1. Gives its consent to 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 New Zealand.

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

In October 2017, the European Parliament adopted its recommendations for the negotiating mandate of a free trade agreement (FTA) between the European Union and New Zealand, aiming at a modern, deep, ambitious, balanced, fair and comprehensive FTA as a way of deepening and further reinforcing the existing, already mature, bilateral trade and investment relationship between both partners.

While not directly linked to prospective FTA negotiations, *the Agreement between the EU and New Zealand on cooperation and mutual administrative assistance in customs matters*, which is the subject of this report, can be seen as another step in deepening the EU-New Zealand trade and economic relationship by creating a more trade-friendly and secure customs environment. Hence, the conclusion of this agreement would, in the view of the rapporteur, be a welcome step in preparation of a future FTA.

The agreement in question was signed on 3 July 2017, with negotiations originally launched in 2013, and the European Parliament has now been requested to give its consent before its conclusion.

The general objective of the agreement is to develop and intensify cooperation and mutual administrative assistance in customs matters with New Zealand. In particular, it establishes a legal basis for a cooperation framework, which aims at securing the supply chain and facilitating legitimate trade, as well as enabling information exchange to ensure the proper application of customs legislation and the prevention, investigation and combating of breaches of customs legislation.

More specifically, this agreement is aimed at:

- benefitting legitimate trade by creating a more predictable and trade-friendly exchange;
- further enabling exchange of information and cooperation of customs authorities in order to facilitate the use of new instruments or increase the efficiency of existing tools;
- promoting modern and simple procedures in order to save time and money in getting goods through customs, fully in line with commitments made under the Trade Facilitation Agreement, thus creating a level playing field for economic operators on both sides;
- helping to prevent, investigate and combat breaches of customs legislation, and thus helping to protect consumers by stopping harmful or illegal goods reaching the European market.

The EU has already concluded many other similar agreements on mutual administrative assistance in customs matters, inter alia with Korea, Canada, Hong Kong, USA, India, China and Japan. The rapporteur believes it is time to also conclude such an agreement with a reliable and close partner like New Zealand, in order to enable more efficient cooperation between custom authorities and further enhance and deepen the relationship with New Zealand, and therefore recommends to give consent to this agreement.

PROCEDURE – COMMITTEE RESPONSIBLE

Title	Agreement between the EU and New Zealand on cooperation and mutual administrative assistance in customs matters	
References	07712/2016 – C8-0237/2017 – COM(2016)0017 – 2016/0006(NLE)	
Date of consultation / request for consent	19.7.2017	
Committee responsible Date announced in plenary	INTA 11.9.2017	
Rapporteurs Date appointed	Daniel Caspary 15.2.2016	
Discussed in committee	23.11.2017	23.1.2018
Date adopted	20.2.2018	
Result of final vote	+: 32 –: 2 0: 0	
Members present for the final vote	William (The Earl of) Dartmouth, Laima Liucija Andrikienė, David Campbell Bannerman, Daniel Caspary, Salvatore Cicu, Santiago Fisas Ayxelà, Christofer Fjellner, Karoline Graswander-Hainz, Heidi Hautala, Nadja Hirsch, Patricia Lalonde, Bernd Lange, David Martin, Anne-Marie Mineur, Sorin Moisă, Alessia Maria Mosca, Godelieve Quisthoudt-Rowohl, Marietje Schaake, Helmut Scholz, Joachim Schuster, Joachim Starbatty, Adam Szejnfeld, Hannu Takkula, Iuliu Winkler, Jan Zahradil	
Substitutes present for the final vote	Bendt Bendtsen, Klaus Buchner, Nicola Danti, Agnes Jongerius, Sajjad Karim, Paul Rübig, Jarosław Wałęsa	
Substitutes under Rule 200(2) present for the final vote	Mario Borghezio, Jacques Colombier	
Date tabled	23.2.2018	

FINAL VOTE BY ROLL CALL IN COMMITTEE RESPONSIBLE

32	+
ALDE	Nadja Hirsch, Patricia Lalonde, Marietje Schaake, Hannu Takkula
ECR	David Campbell Bannerman, Sajjad Karim, Joachim Starbatty, Jan Zahradil
EFDD	William (The Earl of) Dartmouth
GUE/NGL	Anne-Marie Mineur, Helmut Scholz
PPE	Laima Liucija Andrikienė, Bendt Bendtsen, Daniel Caspary, Salvatore Cicu, Santiago Fisas Ayxelà, Christofer Fjellner, Sorin Moisă, Godelieve Quisthoudt-Rowohl, Paul Rübig, Adam Szejnfeld, Jarosław Wałęsa, Iuliu Winkler
S&D	Nicola Danti, Karoline Graswander-Hainz, Agnes Jongerius, Bernd Lange, David Martin, Alessia Maria Mosca, Joachim Schuster
VERTS/ALE	Klaus Buchner, Heidi Hautala
2	-
ENF	Mario Borghezio, Jacques Colombier
0	0

Key to symbols:

+ : in favour

- : against

0 : abstention