Council of the
European Union

Brussels, 9 April 2019
(OR. en)

6052/19

LIMITE

WTO 45
USA 6

PUBLIC

LEGISLATIVE ACTS AND OTHER INSTRUMENTS

Subject:	COUNCIL DECISION authorising the opening of negotiations with the United States of America for an agreement on the elimination of tariffs for industrial goods

COUNCIL DECISION (EU) 2019/…

of …

authorising the opening of negotiations with the United States of America for an agreement on the elimination of tariffs for industrial goods

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, and in particular the first subparagraph of Article 207(4), in conjunction with Article 218(3) and (4) thereof,

Having regard to the recommendation from the European Commission,

Whereas:

(1) The European Union and the United States of America (United States) have the largest and deepest bilateral trade and investment relationship in the world and have highly integrated economies. This relationship could be further improved.

(2) The United States has announced its intention to withdraw from the Paris Agreement[1] on climate change, while the Union seeks the negotiation of deep and comprehensive free trade agreements only with Parties to that Agreement.

(3) The negotiating directives for the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership must be considered obsolete and no longer relevant.

(4) Past efforts with the United States have demonstrated difficulties in negotiating mutually acceptable commitments in areas identified as priorities by the Union. It is therefore appropriate to pursue with the United States a more limited agreement covering the elimination of tariffs on industrial products only, and excluding agricultural products.

(5) It is important to take particular sensitivities into account, for example in the energy-intensive product and fisheries sectors, by providing appropriate phasing out periods for the elimination of tariffs, and exclusions for the most sensitive tariff lines,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

[1] OJ L 282, 19.10.2016, p. 4.

Article 1

1. The Commission is hereby authorised to open negotiations with the United States for an agreement on the elimination of tariffs for industrial goods.

2. The negotiations shall be conducted on the basis of the negotiating directives of the Council set out in the addendum to this Decision.

Article 2

The negotiations shall be conducted in consultation with the Trade Policy Committee as provided for in the third subparagraph of Article 207(3) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union.

Article 3

The negotiating directives for the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership have become obsolete.

Article 4

This Decision is addressed to the Commission.

Done at Brussels,

For the Council
The President