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Subject:	Draft COUNCIL DECISION on the accession of the European Union to the Geneva Act of the Lisbon Agreement on Appellations of Origin and Geographical Indications - Adoption - Statements

Joint statement by Germany, France, Portugal and Poland

We support the European Union's planned accession to the Geneva Act of the Lisbon Agreement on Appellations of Origin and Geographical Indications (GIs), in order for it to properly exercise its exclusive competence for appellations of origin and geographical indications in the Lisbon system. Upon accession, the EU will be obliged to recognise a protection system which also includes non-agricultural products. It is therefore essential that designations for non-agricultural products be afforded protection in the EU as quickly as possible. We ask the Commission to submit such a proposal for a regulation swiftly after accession to the Geneva Act.

Statement of the Netherlands

The Netherlands supports the European Union's planned accession to the Geneva Act of the Lisbon Agreement on Appellations of Origin and Geographical Indications (GIs), in order for it to properly exercise its exclusive competence for appellations of origin and geographical indications in the Lisbon system. The Netherlands accepts the present compromise proposal, as the proposal does not go beyond the scope of the current protection under EU law.
