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COUNCIL DECISION (EU) 2026/2552

of 9 November 2026

on the position to be taken on behalf of the European Union within the Committee on Customs established under the Free Trade Agreement between the European Union and the Republic of Singapore concerning the mutual recognition of the Secure Trade Partnership Plus Programme of Singapore and the Authorised Economic Operator Programme of the European Union

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, and in particular Article 207(4), first subparagraph, in conjunction with Article 218(9), thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the European Commission,

Whereas:

(1) The Free Trade Agreement between the European Union and the Republic of Singapore (the 'Agreement') was concluded by the Union by means of Council Decision (EU) 2019/1875 [1].

(2) Pursuant to Article 6.3 of the Agreement, the Parties are to establish, where appropriate, mutual recognition of their respective trade partnership programmes, including aspects such as data transmission and mutually agreed benefits.

(3) Pursuant to Articles 6.17 and 16.4 of the Agreement, it is possible for the Committee on Customs, established pursuant to Article 16.2 of the Agreement, to adopt decisions on the mutual recognition of trade partnership programmes.

(4) The Committee on Customs, during its second meeting in 2026 or, subject to the agreement of the Parties, by written procedure, is scheduled to adopt a decision concerning the mutual recognition of the Secure Trade Partnership Plus ('STP Plus') Programme of Singapore and the Authorised Economic Operator ('AEO') Programme of the European Union.

(5) Mutual recognition of the AEO and STP Plus programmes can significantly enhance security and safety and facilitate international trade by strengthening the security of the international supply chain.

(6) The AEO and STP Plus programmes are based on internationally recognised security standards advocated by the SAFE Framework of Standards to Secure and Facilitate Global Trade adopted by the World Customs Organization in June 2005.

(7) Site visits and a joint evaluation of the AEO and STP Plus programmes have demonstrated that their qualification standards for security and safety purposes are compatible and lead to equivalent results.

(8) The decision of the Committee on Customs will, if adopted, produce legal effects for the Union.

(9) It is therefore appropriate to establish the position to be taken within the Committee on Customs concerning the mutual recognition of the AEO and STP Plus programmes,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

[1] Council Decision (EU) 2019/1875 of 8 November 2019 on the conclusion of the Free Trade Agreement between the European Union and the Republic of Singapore (OJ L 294, 14.11.2019, p. 1, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/dec/2019/1875/oj).

Article 1

The position to be taken on the Union's behalf within the Committee on Customs established under the Free Trade Agreement between the European Union and the Republic of Singapore shall be based on the draft decision of the Committee on Customs attached to this Decision.

Article 2

Minor technical changes to the position set out in the Annex may be agreed upon without a further decision of the Council.

Article 3

This Decision shall enter into force on the date of its adoption.

Done at Brussels, 9 November 2026.

For the Council

The President

S. HARRIS