



Brussels, 22.9.2014
COM(2014) 583 final

2014/0270 (NLE)

Proposal for a

COUNCIL DECISION

on the conclusion, on behalf of the European Union and its Member States, of a Protocol to the Euro-Mediterranean Agreement establishing an Association between the European Communities and its Member States, of the one part, and the Kingdom of Morocco, of the other part, to take account of the accession of the Republic of Croatia to the European Union

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

The Euro-Mediterranean Agreement establishing an Association between the European Communities and its Member States, of the one part, and the Kingdom of Morocco, of the other part ('the Agreement'), was signed on 26 February 1996 and entered into force on 1 March 2000.

The attached proposal constitutes the legal instrument for concluding a Protocol to the Agreement ('the Protocol') to take account of Croatia's accession to the European Union (hereinafter referred to as "the Protocol").

According to its Act of Accession, Croatia is to accede to the international agreements signed or concluded by the EU and its Member States by means of a protocol to those agreements.

On 14 September 2012¹, the Council has authorised the Commission to open negotiations with the third countries concerned with a view to concluding the relevant protocols. The negotiations with Morocco were successfully concluded by the initialling of the Protocol.

The Commission considers the outcome of the negotiations to be satisfactory and requests the Council to adopt the attached decision concluding the Protocol after it has obtained the consent of the European Parliament.

¹ Council decision authorising the opening of negotiations for the adaptation of agreements signed or concluded between the European Union, or the European Union and its Member States, with one or more third countries or international organisations, in view of the accession of the Republic of Croatia to the European Union (Council doc. 13351/12 LIMITED).

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THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, and in particular Article 217 in conjunction with Article 218(6)(a),

Having regard to the Act of Accession of the Republic of Croatia, and in particular Article 6 (2) thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the European Commission,

Having regard to the consent of the European Parliament,

Whereas:

- (1) The Euro-Mediterranean Agreement establishing an Association between the European Communities and its Member States, of the one part, and the Kingdom of Morocco, of the other part ('the Agreement') was signed in Brussels on 26 February 1996 and entered into force on 1 March 2000.
- (2) The Republic of Croatia became a Member State of the European Union on 1 July 2013.
- (3) Under the terms of Article 6(2) of the Act of Accession of the Republic of Croatia, the accession of the Republic of Croatia to the Euro-Mediterranean Agreement establishing an Association between the European Communities and its Member States, of the one part, and the Kingdom of Morocco, of the other part, is to be agreed by means of a protocol to the Agreement concluded between the Council, acting on behalf of the Union and unanimously on behalf of the Member States, and by the Kingdom of Morocco.
- (4) On 14 September 2012, the Council authorised the Commission to open negotiations with the third countries concerned. The negotiations were successfully concluded with the Kingdom of Morocco by the initialling of the Protocol attached to this decision. The accession Protocol to the Euro-Mediterranean Agreement establishing an Association between the European Communities and its Member States, of the one part, and the Kingdom of Morocco, of the other part to take account of the accession of the Republic of Croatia to the European Union has been signed on behalf of the European Union and its Member States in [...] on [...].
- (5) The Protocol should be approved.

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

The Protocol to the Euro-Mediterranean Agreement establishing an Association between the European Communities and its Member States, of the one part, and the Kingdom of Morocco, of the other part to take account of the accession of the Republic of Croatia to the European Union is hereby approved on behalf of the European Union and its Member States.

The text of the Protocol is attached to this Decision.

Article 2

The President of the Council shall designate the person empowered to proceed, on behalf of the European Union, to the notification provided for in Article 7 of the Protocol, in order to express the consent of the European Union to be bound by the Protocol.

Article 3

This Decision shall enter into force on

Done at Brussels

*For the Council
The President*