



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Brussels, 5 March 2012

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**Interinstitutional File:
2010/0248(NLE)**

**MA 2
AGRI 125
PECHE 70
WTO 76
MED 10
OC 108**

"I/A" ITEM NOTE

from: General Secretariat

to: COREPER/Council

No. Cion prop.: 13878/10 MA 59 AGRI 343 WTO 320 MED 110

Subject : Council Decision on the conclusion of an Agreement in the form of an Exchange of Letters between the European Union and the Kingdom of Morocco concerning reciprocal liberalisation measures on agricultural products, processed agricultural products, fish and fishery products, the replacement of Protocols 1, 2 and 3 and their Annexes and amendments to the Euro Mediterranean Agreement establishing an association between the European Communities and their Member States, of the one part, and the Kingdom of Morocco, of the other part
- Adoption

COMMON GUIDELINES

Consultation deadline : 06.03.2012

1. The Euro-Mediterranean Association Agreement between the European Communities and their Member States of the one part, and the Kingdom of Morocco, of the other part, was signed in February 1996 and entered into force on 1 March 2000.

2. On 17 September 2010 the Commission submitted to the Council two Proposals for Council Decisions on the signing¹ and on the conclusion² of an Agreement in the form of an Exchange of Letters between the European Union and the Kingdom of Morocco concerning reciprocal liberalisation measures on agricultural products, processed agricultural products, fish and fishery products, the replacement of Protocols 1, 2 and 3 and their Annexes and amendments to the Euro Mediterranean Agreement establishing an association between the European Communities and their Member States, of the one part, and the Kingdom of Morocco, of the other part.
4. The "Mashraq/Maghreb" Working Party agreed on 5 November 2010 the text of the draft Council Decision on the conclusion of an Agreement in the form of an Exchange of Letters as set out in doc. 15975/10 MA 65 AGRI 448 PECHE 272 WTO 361 MED 120.
5. On 2 December 2010, the Council authorised the signing³ of the Agreement and the Agreement was signed on 13 December 2010.
6. The Council decided on 2 December 2010 to forward the draft Council Decision on the conclusion of an Agreement in the form of an Exchange of Letters, together with the text of the Agreement as contained in document 15974/10 MA 64 AGRI 447 PECHE 271 WTO 360 MED 119, to the European Parliament in order to obtain its consent.
7. On 16 February 2012, the European Parliament gave its consent to the conclusion of the Agreement.

¹ Doc. 13877/10 MA 58 AGRI 342 WTO 319 MED 109

² Doc. 13878/10 MA 59 AGRI 343 WTO 320 MED 110

³ Doc. 15973/10 MA 63 AGRI 446 PECHE 270 WTO 359 MED 118

8. It is therefore proposed that the Council, subject to confirmation by Coreper:
- a) adopt under part "A" at one of its forthcoming meetings, the Council Decision on the conclusion of an Agreement in the form of an Exchange of Letters between the European Union and the Kingdom of Morocco concerning reciprocal liberalisation measures on agricultural products, processed agricultural products, fish and fishery products, the replacement of Protocols 1, 2 and 3 and their Annexes and amendments to the Euro Mediterranean Agreement establishing an association between the European Communities and their Member States, of the one part, and the Kingdom of Morocco, of the other part, as set out in doc. 15975/10 MA 65 AGRI 448 PECHE 272 WTO 361 MED 120 as finalised by the legal-linguistic experts.
 - b) order publication of the aforementioned Decision in the Official Journal of the European Union.
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