



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**



**Brussels, 26 March 2012
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PRESSE 135**

Council approves conclusion of Euro-Mediterranean convention on preferential rules of origin

The Council today¹ authorised the conclusion, on behalf of the EU, of the regional Convention on pan-Euro-Mediterranean preferential rules of origin ([9429/10](#)).

The decision aims at replacing the current pan-Euro-Mediterranean system of cumulation of origin based on individual protocols applicable between two partner countries, with a single legal instrument in the form of a regional convention on preferential rules of origin.

The main objective of establishing a single regional convention is to facilitate the application of identical rules of origin for the purpose of diagonal cumulation of origin for goods traded in the pan-Euro-Mediterranean cumulation zone.

The Convention is intended to overcome the difficulties in the management of the current network of some 60 bilateral protocols on rules of origin among the countries or territories of the Euro-Mediterranean zone.

The contracting parties to the Convention are:

- the European Union;
- the Faroe Islands²;
- the EFTA States: Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland;

¹ The decision was taken without discussion at a meeting of the General Affairs Council.

² Denmark in respect of the Faroe Islands.

P R E S S

- the participants in the "Barcelona Process": Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, the Palestine Liberation Organisation for the benefit of the Palestinian Authority of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, Syria, Tunisia and Turkey; and
- the participants in the EU's stabilisation and association process: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Kosovo, Montenegro and Serbia.

The EU signed the Convention on 15 June 2011.

On 24/25 March 2011, the European Council called for the development of a new partnership with the region, founded on deeper economic integration, broader market access and closer political cooperation. It called, in particular, for rapid progress to be made on pan-Euro-Mediterranean rules of origin.

For more information on the system of pan-Euro-Mediterranean cumulation see:

http://ec.europa.eu/taxation_customs/customs/customs_duties/rules_origin/preferential/article_783_en.htm