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INFORMATION NOTE

from: General Secretariat
to: Permanent Representatives Committee/Council
Subject: Proposal for a decision of the European Parliament and of the Council on amendments to the Agreement Establishing the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) extending the geographic scope of EBRD operations to the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean
- Outcome of the European Parliament's first reading
(Strasbourg, 11 to 14 June 2012)

I. INTRODUCTION

In accordance with the provisions of Article 294 of the TFEU and the joint declaration on practical arrangements for the codecision procedure¹, a number of informal contacts have taken place between the Council, the European Parliament and the Commission with a view to reaching an agreement on this dossier at first reading, thereby avoiding the need for second reading and conciliation.

¹ OJ C 145, 30.6.2007, p.5

In this context, the Rapporteur, Mr Slavi BINEV (NI - BU), together with the EPP, S&D and ECR political groups presented a compromise amendment to the proposal for a Decision. This amendment had been agreed during the informal contacts referred to above.

II. VOTE

When it voted on 13 June 2012, the plenary adopted the compromise amendment to the proposal for a Decision. The Commission's proposal as thus amended constitutes the Parliament's first-reading position which is contained in its legislative resolution as set out in the Annex hereto ¹.

The Parliament's position reflects what had been previously agreed between the institutions. The Council should therefore be in a position to approve the Parliament's position. The act would then be adopted in the wording which corresponds to the Parliament's position.

¹ The version of the Parliament's position in the legislative resolution has been marked up to indicate the changes made by the amendments to the Commission's proposal. Additions to the Commission's text are highlighted in *bold and italics*. The symbol "■" indicates deleted text.

Extension of the geographic scope of the EBRD to the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean *I**

European Parliament legislative resolution of 13 June 2012 on the proposal for a decision of the European Parliament and of the Council on amendments to the Agreement Establishing the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) extending the geographic scope of EBRD operations to the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean (COM(2011)0905 – C7-0523/2011 – 2011/0442(COD))

(Ordinary legislative procedure: first reading)

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the Commission proposal to Parliament and the Council (COM(2011)0905),
 - having regard to Article 294(2) and Article 212 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, pursuant to which the Commission submitted the proposal to Parliament (C7-0523/2011),
 - having regard to Article 294(3) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,
 - having regard to the undertaking given by the Council representative by letter of 3 May 2012 to approve Parliament's position, in accordance with Article 294(4) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,
 - having regard to Rules 55 of its Rules of Procedure,
 - having regard to the report of the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs (A7-0142/2012),
1. Adopts its position at first reading hereinafter set out;
 2. Instructs its President to forward its position to the Council, the Commission and the national parliaments.

Position of the European Parliament adopted at first reading on 13 June 2012 with a view to the adoption of Decision No .../2012/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council on amendments to the Agreement Establishing the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) extending the geographic scope of EBRD operations to the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean

THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, and in particular Article 212 thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the European Commission,

After transmission of the draft legislative act to the national parliaments,

Acting in accordance with the ordinary legislative procedure¹,

Whereas:

- (1) *Since its establishment in 1991, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) has assisted the Central and Eastern European countries in their transition towards open market economies and the promotion of private and entrepreneurial initiative. The geographic scope of EBRD operations should be extended to the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean in order to promote similar objectives. In response to the economic and political situation in countries of the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean, the EBRD has developed a phased approach to starting its activities that will take into consideration the specificity of the region.*
- (2) *According to the Report of the Board of Directors to the Board of Governors on the geographic expansion of the Bank's region of operations to the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean, the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean consists of the countries that have a shoreline on the Mediterranean, as well as Jordan which is closely integrated into this region.*
- (3) In response to the 2011 events in the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean **■**, on 8 March 2011 the Commission and the High Representative *of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy* presented a Joint Communication entitled "A Partnership for Democracy and Shared Prosperity with the Southern Mediterranean" signalling the Union's strong political and economic support to the region **■**. *The Joint Communication* included an option *to extend* the EBRD's mandate to cover the countries of the Southern Neighbourhood, building on *the EBRD's* experience over the last 20 years. The European Council of 24 and 25 March 2011 broadly endorsed the contents of *that* Joint Communication. In its Resolution of 7 April 2011 on the review of the European Neighbourhood Policy – Southern Dimension, the European Parliament invited the EBRD to change its statute in order to participate in the financial assistance process.

¹ Position of the European Parliament of 13 June 2012.

- (4) In May 2011, *the* G8 leaders launched the Deauville Partnership to help *the countries of the* Southern and Eastern Mediterranean in their transition towards free, democratic and tolerant societies and called on the EBRD to extend its geographic scope in order to leverage its experience and support the transition of those countries to embrace the principles of multi-party democracy, pluralism and market *economy*.
- (5) *The expansion of EBRD operations to the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean reflects support by the Union and the international community for the hope, encouraged by the Arab Spring, for a transition in that region towards market economies and pluralistic democratic societies.*
- (6) *Bearing in mind the fragility of the economies in the EBRD's new countries of operation and the social inequalities which were one of the root causes of the turmoil of the Arab Spring, the representatives of the Union in the governing bodies of the EBRD should encourage the EBRD to broaden its focus on private-sector development, in order also to contribute, through its financing, to the achievement of socially and environmentally sustainable societies, as elaborated in the relevant Millennium Development Goals, and in line with Article 3(5) and Article 21 of the Treaty on European Union. In particular, the representatives of the Union in the governing bodies of the EBRD should encourage the EBRD's contribution to the transition towards energy-efficient, socially inclusive, open market economies while taking into account the social, poverty, civil and human rights context.*
- (7) By Resolutions 137 and 138, adopted on 30 September 2011, the Board of Governors of the EBRD voted in favour of the necessary amendments to the Agreement Establishing the EBRD (*the "Agreement"*), enabling it to expand the *geographical scope* of EBRD operations to the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean *while maintaining its commitment to its existing countries of operation*. All EU Governors of the EBRD, including the Governor representing the Union, voted in favour of those amendments.
- (8) *By its Resolution 134, adopted on 21 May 2011, the Board of Governors of the EBRD stressed that the planned extension of the EBRD's mandate should be achieved without requiring additional capital contributions from its shareholders.*
- (9) *Pursuant to Article 56 of the Agreement, the Board of Governors of the EBRD is to ask all members whether they accept the proposed amendments.*
- (10) *The representatives of the Union in the governing bodies of the EBRD should use their best endeavours to encourage the EBRD to monitor its operations closely, particularly in countries where there is a lack of political accountability, where civil and human rights are infringed or where high levels of corruption persist. Furthermore, the representatives of the Union in the governing bodies of the EBRD should use their best endeavours to ensure that the principles of prudential banking, transparency and anti-fraud, as invoked in Decision No 1219/2011/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 November 2011 concerning the subscription by the European Union to additional shares in the capital of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) as a result of the decision to increase this capital¹, are taken into account in the activities of the EBRD in the new countries of operation.*

¹ OJ L 313, 26.11.2011, p. 1.

- (11) In carrying out its activities in the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean **█**, the *representatives of the Union in the governing bodies of the EBRD* should *encourage the EBRD* to continue its close engagement with the Union and collaboration with *civil society, as well as* to develop *further* its close cooperation with the European Investment Bank and other European and international public financing institutions, *in order to make full use of their comparative advantages. The EBRD should also avoid duplicating the activities of such other public financing institutions.*
- (12) *Before the EBRD approves a potential new country of operation, it should make a detailed technical assessment of the economic and political conditions existing in the country concerned, including: an assessment of that country's commitment to principles of multi-party democracy, pluralism and market economics, as enshrined in Article 1 of the Agreement, an assessment of transition gaps, and a review of activities of other international financing institutions in that country and of the priorities in relation to which the EBRD could best make use of its unique knowledge and skills. In discussing those assessments, the representatives of the Union in the governing bodies of the EBRD should encourage the EBRD to take full account of the views of the Union.*
- (13) *In the report that the Commission will present in accordance with Decision 1219/2011/EU by the end of the fourth Capital Resources Review for the period of 2011-2015, the Commission should take into account the extension of the EBRD's work in the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean.*
- (14) *With respect to the EBRD's contribution to the transition of the prospective countries of operation in the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean towards well-functioning, sustainable, modern market economies, the representatives of the Union in the governing bodies of the EBRD should invite the EBRD to report on its performance annually and to conduct comprehensive assessments of its impact on building such economies in advance of its quinquennial capital resources reviews.*
- (15) *The amendments to the Agreement should therefore be approved on behalf of the Union,*

HAVE ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

The amendments to Articles 1 and 18 of the Agreement, which *extend the geographical scope of EBRD **█** operations*, are hereby approved on behalf of the **█** Union.

The text of the amendments is set out in the Annex for informative purposes.

Article 2

The Governor of the EBRD representing the **█** Union shall, *on behalf of the Union*, communicate to the EBRD the Declaration of Acceptance of the amendments **█**.

Article 3

As part of the annual report to the European Parliament, the Governor of the EBRD representing the Union shall also report on the EBRD's activities and operations in the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean.

Article 4

This Decision shall enter into force on the third day following that of its publication in the *Official Journal of the European Union*.

Done at ...,

For the European Parliament

For the Council

The President

The President

ANNEX

Amendments to the Agreement Establishing the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development

Article 1 of the Agreement Establishing the Bank shall be amended to read as follows (new text in italics):

Article 1

PURPOSE

In contributing to economic progress and reconstruction, the purpose of the Bank shall be to foster the transition towards open market-oriented economies and to promote private and entrepreneurial initiative in the Central and Eastern European countries committed to and applying the principles of multiparty democracy, pluralism and market economics. *Subject to the same conditions, the purpose of the Bank may also be carried out in Mongolia and in member countries of the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean as determined by the Bank upon the affirmative vote of not less than two-thirds of the Governors, representing not less than three-fourths of the total voting power of the members.* Accordingly, any reference in this Agreement and its annexes to "Central and Eastern European countries", "countries from Central and Eastern Europe", "recipient country (or countries)" or "recipient member country (or countries)" shall refer to Mongolia *and each of such countries of the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean* as well.

Article 18 of the Agreement Establishing the Bank shall be amended to read as follows (new text in italics):

Article 18

SPECIAL FUNDS

1. (i) The Bank may accept the administration of Special Funds which are designed to serve the purpose and come within the functions of the Bank *in its recipient countries and potential recipient countries*. The full cost of administering any such Special Fund shall be charged to that Special Fund.

(ii) *For the purposes of subparagraph (i), the Board of Governors may, at the request of a member which is not a recipient country, decide that such member qualifies as a potential recipient country for such limited period and under such terms as may seem advisable. Such decision shall be taken by the affirmative vote of not less than two-thirds of the Governors, representing not less than three-fourths of the total voting power of the members.*

(iii) *The decision to allow a member to qualify as a potential recipient country can only be made if such member is able to meet the requirements for becoming a recipient country. Such requirements are those set out in Article 1 of this Agreement, as it reads at the time of such decision or as it will read upon the entry into force of an amendment that has already been approved by the Board of Governors at the time of such decision.*

(iv) *If a potential recipient country has not become a recipient country at the end of the period referred to in subparagraph (ii), the Bank shall forthwith cease any special operations in that country, except those incident to the orderly realization, conservation and preservation of the assets of the Special Fund and settlement of obligations that have arisen in connection therewith.*

2. Special Funds accepted by the Bank may be used *in its recipient countries and potential recipient countries* in any manner and on any terms and conditions consistent with the purpose and functions of the Bank, with the other applicable provisions of this Agreement, and with the agreement or agreements relating to such Funds.

3. The Bank shall adopt such rules and regulations as may be required for the establishment, administration and use of each Special Fund. Such rules and regulations shall be consistent with the provisions of this Agreement, except for those provisions expressly applicable only to ordinary operations of the Bank.
