



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Brussels, 26 November 2012

16823/12

**Interinstitutional File:
2011/0457(NLE)**

**ISR 20
AGRI 799
PECHE 502
UD 307
WTO 386
MED 53
COMER 246
TDC 24
OC 683**

"I/A" ITEM NOTE

from: General Secretariat

to: COREPER/Council

No. Cion prop.: 5066/12 ISR 2 AGRI 7 PECHE 6 UD 4 WTO 5 MED 2 COMER 2 TDC 2

Subject : Council Decision on the conclusion of an Agreement in the form of an Exchange of Letters between the European Union, of the one part, and the State of Israel, of the other part, amending the Annexes to Protocols 1 and 2 of the Euro-Mediterranean Agreement establishing an association between the European Communities and their Member States, of the one part, and the State of Israel, of the other part

- Adoption

COMMON GUIDELINES

Consultation deadline : 27.11.2012

1. The Euro-Mediterranean Association Agreement between the European Communities and their Member States, of the one part, and the State of Israel, of the other part, was signed in November 1995 and entered into force on 1 June 2000.

2. On 21 December 2011 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 State of Israel concerning reciprocal liberalisation measures on agricultural products, processed agricultural products, fish and fishery products, amending the Annexes to Protocols 1 and 2 of the Euro Mediterranean Agreement establishing an association between the European Communities and their Member States, of the one part, and the State of Israel, of the other part.
4. The "Mashraq/Maghreb" Working Party agreed on 28 February 2012 the texts of the draft Council Decisions on the signing and on the conclusion of an Agreement in the form of an Exchange of Letters, as set out in docs. 7372/12 ISR 3 AGRI 130 PECHE 75 UD 63 WTO 84 MED 14 COMER 50 TDC 3 OC 119 and 7433/12 ISR 4 AGRI 132 PECHE 76 UD 65 WTO 87 MED 15 COMER 52 TDC 4 OC 121, respectively.
5. On 23 April 2012, the Council authorised the signing³ of the Agreement and the Agreement was signed on 18 June 2012.
6. On 20 June 2012, the Council sent 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 7470/12 ISR 5 AGRI 134 PECHE 78 UD 68 WTO 92 MED 16 COMER 55 TDC 5 OC 124, to the European Parliament in order to obtain its consent.
7. On 23 November 2012, the European Parliament gave its consent to the conclusion of the Agreement.

¹ Doc. 5064/12 ISR 1 AGRI 6 PECHE 5 UD 3 WTO 4 MED 1 COMER 1 TDC 1.

² Doc. 5066/12 ISR 2 AGRI 7 PECHE 6 UD 4 WTO 5 MED 2 COMER 2 TDC 2.

³ Doc. 7372/12 ISR 3 AGRI 130 PECHE 75 UD 63 WTO 84 MED 14 COMER 50 TDC 3 OC 124, OJ L 166/27.6.2012, p. 1

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, of the one part, and the State of Israel, of the other part, amending the Annexes to Protocols 1 and 2 of the Euro-Mediterranean Agreement establishing an association between the European Communities and their Member States, of the one part, and the State of Israel, of the other part as set out in doc. 7433/12 ISR 4 AGRI 132 PECHE 76 UD 65 WTO 87 MED 15 COMER 52 TDC 4 OC 121, 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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