



Council of the
European Union

**Brussels, 27 October 2016
(OR. en)**

13307/16

**COEST 256
WTO 289**

LEGISLATIVE ACTS AND OTHER INSTRUMENTS

Subject: COUNCIL DECISION authorising the European Commission and the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy to open negotiations on and negotiate, on behalf of the European Union, the provisions that fall within the competence of the Union of a Comprehensive Agreement between the European Union and its Member States, of the one part, and the Republic of Azerbaijan, of the other part

COUNCIL DECISION

of ...

**authorising the European Commission and the High Representative
of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy
to open negotiations on and negotiate, on behalf of the European Union,
the provisions that fall within the competence
of the Union of a Comprehensive Agreement between
the European Union and its Member States, of the one part,
and the Republic of Azerbaijan, of the other part**

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty on European Union, and in particular Article 37 and Article 31(1) thereof,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, and in particular Articles 91, 100, 207 and 209, in conjunction with Article 218(3) and (4) and the second subparagraph of Article 218(8) thereof,

Having regard to the recommendation from the European Commission and the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy,

Whereas negotiations should be opened with a view to concluding a Comprehensive Agreement between the European Union and its Member States, of the one part, and the Republic of Azerbaijan, of the other part, to replace the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement between the European Communities and their Member States of the one part, and the Republic of Azerbaijan of the other part¹,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

¹ OJ L 246, 17.9.1999, p. 3.

Article 1

1. The Commission and the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy ('High Representative') are hereby authorised to open negotiations on and negotiate, on behalf of the Union, the provisions that fall within the competence of the Union of a Comprehensive Agreement between the European Union and its Member States, of the one part, and the Republic of Azerbaijan, of the other part ('the Agreement').
2. The Commission is hereby nominated as the head of the Union's negotiating team.

Article 2

The negotiations shall be conducted on the basis of the negotiating directives of the Council set out in the addendum to this Decision.

Article 3

The negotiations shall be conducted in consultation with the Council Working Party on Eastern Europe and Central Asia. The Trade Policy Committee shall be regularly consulted on the trade-related parts of the Agreement.

Article 4

This Decision is addressed to the Commission and to the High Representative.

Done at ...,

For the Council

The President
