



Council of the  
European Union

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**NOTE**

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From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Delegations
No. Cion doc.:	7873/17 RECH 98 MED 23 AGRI 179 MIGR 43 RELEX 286
Subject:	Recommendation for a COUNCIL DECISION authorising the opening of negotiations on agreements between the European Union and third countries laying down the terms and conditions for their participation in the Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Area (PRIMA), jointly undertaken by several Member States

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Delegations will find attached the text on the "Recommendation for a COUNCIL DECISION authorising the opening of negotiations on agreements between the European Union and third countries laying down the terms and conditions for their participation in the Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Area (PRIMA), jointly undertaken by several Member States" as modified following the comments received during and after the Research Working Party meeting on 3 April 2017.

**RECOMMENDATION FOR A COUNCIL DECISION AUTHORISING THE OPENING OF NEGOTIATIONS ON AGREEMENTS BETWEEN THE EUROPEAN UNION AND THIRD COUNTRIES LAYING DOWN THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS FOR THEIR PARTICIPATION IN THE PARTNERSHIP FOR RESEARCH AND INNOVATION IN THE MEDITERRANEAN AREA (PRIMA), JOINTLY UNDERTAKEN BY SEVERAL MEMBER STATES**

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, and in particular **Articles 185 and the second subparagraph of Article 188 in conjunction with** Article 218(3) and (4) thereof,

Having regard to the recommendation from the Commission,

Whereas:

- (1) Regulation (EU) No 1291/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council<sup>1</sup> established Horizon 2020 - The Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (2014-2020) ("Horizon 2020"). Horizon 2020 aims at achieving a greater impact on research and innovation by contributing to the strengthening of public-public partnerships, including through Union participation in programmes undertaken by several Member States in accordance with Article 185 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU).
- (2) On 18 October 2016, the Commission adopted a proposal for a Decision of the European Parliament and of the Council on the participation of the Union in Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Area - PRIMA on the basis of Article 185 TFEU ("basic act").

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<sup>1</sup> Regulation (EU) No 1291/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 December 2013 establishing Horizon 2020 – the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (2014-2020) and repealing Decision No 1982/2006/EC (OJ L 347, 20.12.2013, p. 104).

- (3) PRIMA aims at implementing a joint programme for the development and the adoption of innovative and integrated solutions for improving the efficiency, safety, security and sustainability of food production and water provision in the Mediterranean area.
- (4) **Nineteen** countries have agreed to jointly undertake PRIMA by committing financial contributions: the Member States **Croatia**, Cyprus, ~~Czech Republic~~, France, **Germany**, Greece, Italy, Luxembourg, Malta, Portugal, **Slovenia** and Spain; the third countries associated to Horizon 2020 Israel, ~~and Tunisia~~ **and Turkey**; the third countries not associated to Horizon 2020 **Algeria**, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon and Morocco.
- (5) Under the basic act, all Participating States should have the same rights and obligations. The third countries not associated to Horizon 2020 can however participate in PRIMA only subject to the conclusion of international agreements with the Union setting out the terms and conditions of their participation in PRIMA.
- (6) Negotiations should be open with a view to concluding international agreements with **Algeria**, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon and Morocco, laying down the terms and conditions for their participation in PRIMA.
- (7) Negotiations to allow the participation of those third countries not associated to Horizon 2020 in PRIMA can be started on condition that the basic act is adopted.

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

*Article 1*

The Commission is hereby authorised to negotiate, on behalf of the Union, international agreements between the European Union and the third countries **People's Democratic Republic of Algeria**, Arab Republic of Egypt, Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, Republic of Lebanon and Kingdom of Morocco, laying down the terms and conditions for their participation in the Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Area (PRIMA), subject to the adoption of the basic act.

*Article 2*

The negotiating directives are set out in the Annex.

*Article 3*

The negotiation shall be conducted in consultation with **the Working Party on Research** ~~[name of the special committee to be inserted by the Council]~~.

*Article 4*

This Decision is addressed to the Commission.

Done at Brussels,

For the Council

The President

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