



Council of the  
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## PROPOSAL

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From:	Secretary-General of the European Commission, signed by Mr Jordi AYET PUIGARNAU, Director
date of receipt:	11 August 2017
To:	Mr Jeppe TRANHOLM-MIKKELSEN, Secretary-General of the Council of the European Union
No. Cion doc.:	COM(2017) 436 final
Subject:	Proposal for a COUNCIL DECISION on the signing, on behalf of the Union, of the Agreement for scientific and technological cooperation between the European Union and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan setting out the terms and conditions for participation of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan in the Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Area (PRIMA)

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Delegations will find attached document COM(2017) 436 final.

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Encl.: COM(2017) 436 final



EUROPEAN  
COMMISSION

Brussels, 11.8.2017  
COM(2017) 436 final

2017/0202 (NLE)

Proposal for a

## **COUNCIL DECISION**

**on the signing, on behalf of the Union, of the Agreement for scientific and technological cooperation between the European Union and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan setting out the terms and conditions for participation of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan in the Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Area (PRIMA)**

## **EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM**

### **1. CONTEXT OF THE PROPOSAL**

- **Reasons for and objectives of the proposal**

Following a proposal by the Commission for an Article 185 TFEU PRIMA initiative <sup>1</sup>, the Decision (EU) 2017/1324 of the European Parliament and of the Council<sup>2</sup> on the participation of the Union in the Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Area ('PRIMA') jointly undertaken by several Member States was adopted.

PRIMA aims at implementing a joint programme to foster research and innovation capacities and to develop knowledge and common innovative solutions for improving the efficiency, safety, security and sustainability of agro-food systems and of integrated water provision and management in the Mediterranean area. PRIMA will be jointly undertaken by a number of Member States and third countries ('PRIMA Participating States') with a high level of commitment to scientific, management and financial integration and under the same terms and conditions.

The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan ('Jordan') expressed its wish to join PRIMA as a Participating State by letters of 7 November 2016 and 30 February 2017, committing to provide a financial contribution of 30 million euros to the initiative.

In order to ensure that Jordan participates in PRIMA on an equal footing with Member States and third countries associated to Horizon 2020, an International Agreement with the Union is required to extend the scope of the legal regime established by Decision (EU) 2017/1324 to Jordan.

On 30 May 2017 the Council authorised the Commission to open negotiations, on behalf of the Union, with Jordan on an International Agreement between the Union and Jordan laying down the terms and conditions for the participation of Jordan in PRIMA, subject to the adoption of Decision (EU) 2017/1324.

The negotiations started on 26 June 2017 and were successfully completed on 10 July 2017, when the text of the draft Agreement was initialled by representatives from each of the future Parties. The draft Agreement attached to this proposal is in line with the negotiating directives issued by the Council. In particular, it establishes that the terms and conditions for the participation of Jordan in PRIMA shall be those set out in Decision (EU) 2017/1324, making direct reference to the Union legislative act.

In order to ensure the protection of Union financial interests, particularly the powers of the Commission, the European Anti-Fraud Office, the Court of Auditors and the PRIMA Implementation Structure (PRIMA-IS) to carry out audits and investigations in accordance with the applicable Union legislation, the Agreement makes specific reference to the relevant provisions of Decision (EU) 2017/1324 and obliges the Parties to provide all necessary assistance to ensure their implementation. In addition, the future Agreement stipulates that the

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<sup>1</sup> COM(2016) 662 final, 18.10.2016.

<sup>2</sup> Decision (EU) 2017/1324 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 4 July 2017 on the participation of the Union in the Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Area ('PRIMA') jointly undertaken by several Member States (OJ L 185, 18.07.2017, p. 1).

Parties must agree on detailed arrangements for assistance, such arrangements being essential to their cooperation under this Agreement.

- **Consistency with existing policy provisions in the policy area**

As also presented in the impact assessment report for PRIMA<sup>3</sup>, the openness of PRIMA to the participation of third countries such as Jordan is consistent with the objectives of international cooperation for research and innovation as outlined in the 2012 Commission Communication 'Enhancing and focusing EU international cooperation in research and innovation: A strategic approach'<sup>4</sup> and Horizon 2020 Framework Programme, which promotes cooperation with third countries in science, technology and innovation in order to tackle global societal challenges and support Union external policies. This Agreement is also consistent with the existing Euro-Mediterranean Agreement establishing an association between the European Communities and their Member States, of the one part, and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, of the other part<sup>5</sup> and the Agreement between the European Community and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan on Scientific and Technological Cooperation<sup>6</sup> which provide for cooperation between Union and Jordan in research and technological development and encourage research and development activities in the fields of common interest.

- **Consistency with other Union policies**

The implementation of PRIMA in close cooperation with third countries such as Jordan is also consistent with, and relevant for, other Union policies, such as migration policy, development policy and neighbourhood policy.

## **2. LEGAL ELEMENTS OF THE PROPOSAL**

The proposal for a Council decision is based on Article 186 and Article 218(5) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union.

In the light of the above, the Commission proposes that the Council

- decides on the signature of the Agreement on behalf of the European Union;
- authorises the negotiator of the Agreement to sign, on behalf of the European Union, the Agreement for scientific and technological cooperation between the European Union and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan setting out the terms and conditions for participation of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan in the Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Area (PRIMA)

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<sup>3</sup> SWD(2016)332 final, 18.10.2016.

<sup>4</sup> COM(2012) 497 final.

<sup>5</sup> OJ L129, of 15.05.2002, p. 3.

<sup>6</sup> OJ L 159 of 17.06.2011, p.108.

Proposal for a

## COUNCIL DECISION

**on the signing, on behalf of the Union, of the Agreement for scientific and technological cooperation between the European Union and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan setting out the terms and conditions for participation of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan in the Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Area (PRIMA)**

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, and in particular Article 186 in conjunction with Article 218(5) thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the European Commission,

Whereas:

- (1) Decision (EU) 2017/1324 of the European Parliament and of the Council<sup>7</sup> provides for the participation of the Union in the Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Area ('PRIMA') jointly undertaken by several Member States.
- (2) PRIMA aims at implementing a joint programme to foster research and innovation capacities and to develop knowledge and common innovative solutions for improving the efficiency, safety, security and sustainability of agro-food systems and of integrated water provision and management in the Mediterranean area.
- (3) PRIMA will be jointly undertaken by a number of Member States and third countries ('PRIMA Participating States') with a high level of commitment to scientific, management and financial integration and under the same terms and conditions.
- (4) The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan ('Jordan') expressed its wish to join PRIMA as a Participating State and on an equal footing with the Member States and countries associated to Horizon 2020 participating in PRIMA.
- (5) In accordance with Article 1(2) of Decision (EU) 2017/1324 Jordan is to become a Participating State in PRIMA subject to the conclusion of an international agreement for scientific and technological cooperation with the Union setting out the terms and conditions for the participation of Jordan in PRIMA.
- (6) On 30 May 2017 the Council authorised the Commission to open negotiations, on behalf of the Union, with Jordan, on an international agreement setting out the terms and conditions for the participation of Jordan in PRIMA, subject to the adoption of

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<sup>7</sup> Decision (EU) 2017/1324 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 4 July 2017 on the participation of the Union in the Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Area ('PRIMA') jointly undertaken by several Member States (OJ L 185, 18.07.2017, p. 1).

Decision (EU) 2017/1324. The negotiations were successfully completed by the initialling of the Agreement.

- (7) Therefore, the Agreement should be signed on behalf of the Union, subject to its conclusion at a later date.

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

#### *Article 1*

The signing of the Agreement for scientific and technological cooperation between the European Union and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan setting out the terms and conditions for participation of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan in the Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Area (PRIMA) is hereby approved on behalf of the Union, subject to the conclusion of that Agreement.

The text of the Agreement is attached to this Decision.

#### *Article 2*

The Council Secretariat General shall establish the instrument of full powers to sign the Agreement, subject to its conclusion, for the person(s) indicated by the negotiator of the Agreement.

#### *Article 3*

This Decision shall enter into force on [the date of its adoption].

Done at Brussels,

*For the Council  
The President*