



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

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LEGISLATIVE ACTS AND OTHER INSTRUMENTS

Subject: COUNCIL DECISION on the position to be taken on behalf of the European Union within the Joint Committee established by the Regional Convention on pan-Euro-Mediterranean preferential rules of origin as regards the request of the Republic of Moldova to become a Contracting Party to that Convention

COUNCIL DECISION No .../2014/EU

of ...

**on the position to be taken on behalf of the European Union
within the Joint Committee established by the Regional Convention
on pan-Euro-Mediterranean preferential rules of origin
as regards the request of the Republic of Moldova
to become a Contracting Party to that Convention**

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, and in particular the first subparagraph of Article 207(4), in conjunction with Article 218(9) thereof,

Having regard to the Regional Convention on pan-Euro-Mediterranean preferential rules of origin¹,

Having regard to the proposal from the European Commission,

¹ OJ L 54, 26.2.2013, p. 4.

Whereas:

- (1) The Regional Convention on pan-Euro-Mediterranean preferential rules of origin (the "Convention") entered into force on 1 December 2012.
- (2) Article 5(1) of the Convention provides that a third party may become a Contracting Party to the Convention provided that the candidate country or territory has a free trade agreement in force, providing for preferential rules of origin, with at least one of the Contracting Parties.
- (3) The Republic of Moldova submitted a written request for accession to the Convention to the depositary of the Convention on 17 July 2013.
- (4) The Republic of Moldova is a member of the Central European Free Trade Agreement between Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, the Republic of Moldova, Montenegro, Serbia and Kosovo¹. Consequently, the Republic of Moldova has a free trade agreement in force with six Contracting Parties to the Convention and complies with the condition set out in Article 5(1) of the Convention to become a Contracting Party.

¹ This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244 (1999) and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.

- (5) Pursuant to Article 4(3)(b) of the Convention, the Joint Committee shall adopt by decision invitations to third parties to accede to the Convention.
- (6) The position of the Union within the Joint Committee should be to vote in favour of a decision inviting the Republic of Moldova to accede to the Convention,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

The position to be taken on behalf of the European Union within the Joint Committee of the Regional Convention on pan-Euro-Mediterranean preferential rules of origin, as regards the request of the Republic of Moldova to become a Contracting Party to that Convention, shall be based on the draft Decision of the Joint Committee attached to this Decision.

Minor changes to the draft Decision may be agreed to by the representatives of the Union in the Joint Committee without further decision of the Council.

Article 2

This Decision shall enter into force on the day following that of its adoption.

Done at Brussels,

For the Council

The President

DRAFT

DECISION No 1
OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONAL CONVENTION
ON PAN-EURO-MEDITERRANEAN PREFERENTIAL RULES OF ORIGIN

of ...

**as regards the request of the Republic of Moldova to become a Contracting Party
to the Regional Convention on pan-Euro-Mediterranean preferential rules of origin**

THE JOINT COMMITTEE,

Having regard to the Regional Convention on pan-Euro-Mediterranean preferential rules of origin¹,

¹ OJ L 54, 26.2.2013, p. 4.

Whereas:

- (1) Article 5(1) of the Regional Convention on pan-Euro-Mediterranean preferential rules of origin ("the Convention") provides that a third party may become a Contracting Party to the Convention provided that the candidate country or territory has a free trade agreement in force, providing for preferential rules of origin, with at least one of the Contracting Parties.
- (2) The Republic of Moldova submitted a written request for accession to the Convention to the depositary of the Convention on 17 July 2013.
- (3) The Republic of Moldova is a member of the Central European Free Trade Agreement between Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, the Republic of Moldova, Montenegro, Serbia and Kosovo¹. Consequently, the Republic of Moldova has a free trade agreement in force with six Contracting Parties to the Convention and complies with the condition set out in Article 5(1) of the Convention to become a Contracting Party.
- (4) Article 4(3)(b) of the Convention provides that the Joint Committee shall adopt by decision invitations to third parties to accede to the Convention,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

¹ This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244 (1999) and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.

Article 1

The Republic of Moldova shall be invited to accede to the Regional Convention on pan-Euro-Mediterranean preferential rules of origin.

Article 2

This Decision shall enter into force on the day of its adoption.

Done at Brussels,

For the Joint Committee

The Chairperson
