



**COUNCIL OF  
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

**Brussels, 16 May 2014  
(OR. en)**

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**Interinstitutional File:**  
**2014/0141 (NLE)**

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**9957/14  
ADD 1**

**AELE 32  
CH 21  
UD 140**

**PROPOSAL**

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**From:** Secretary-General of the European Commission,  
signed by Mr Jordi AYET PUIGARNAU, Director

**date of receipt:** 15 May 2014

**To:** Mr Uwe CORSEPIUS, Secretary-General of the Council of the European  
Union

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**No. Cion doc.:** COM(2014) 268 final - Annex

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**Subject:** ANNEX to the Proposal for a Council Decision on the position to be taken  
by the European Union within the Joint Committee established by the  
Agreement between the European Economic Community and the Swiss  
Confederation of 22 July 1972, as regards the replacement of Protocol 3 to  
that Agreement, concerning the definition of the concept of 'originating  
products' and methods of administrative cooperation, by a new Protocol  
which, as regards the rules of origin, refers to the Regional Convention on  
pan-Euro-Mediterranean preferential rules of origin

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Delegations will find attached document COM(2014) 268 final - Annex.

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Encl.: COM(2014) 268 final - Annex



EUROPEAN  
COMMISSION

Brussels, 15.5.2014  
COM(2014) 268 final

ANNEX 1

**ANNEX**

**to the**

**Proposal for a Council Decision**

**on the position to be taken by the European Union within the Joint Committee established by the Agreement between the European Economic Community and the Swiss Confederation of 22 July 1972, as regards the replacement of Protocol 3 to that Agreement, concerning the definition of the concept of 'originating products' and methods of administrative cooperation, by a new Protocol which, as regards the rules of origin, refers to the Regional Convention on pan-Euro-Mediterranean preferential rules of origin**

## ANNEX

### Draft

#### DECISION OF THE EU-SWITZERLAND JOINT COMMITTEE No [...]

of [...]

#### **amending Protocol 3 to the Agreement between the European Economic Community and the Swiss Confederation concerning the definition of the concept of 'originating products' and methods of administrative cooperation**

The Joint Committee,

Having regard to the Agreement between the European Economic Community and the Swiss Confederation, signed in Brussels on 22 July 1972<sup>1</sup>, hereinafter referred to as 'the Agreement', and in particular its Article 11,

Having regard to Protocol 3 to the Agreement concerning the definition of the concept of 'originating products' and methods of administrative cooperation, hereinafter referred to as Protocol 3',

Whereas:

- (1) Article 11 of the Agreement refers to Protocol 3 which lays down the rules of origin and provides for cumulation of origin between the EU, Switzerland (including Liechtenstein), Iceland, Norway, Turkey, the Faroe Islands and the participants in the Barcelona Process<sup>2</sup>.
- (2) Article 39 of Protocol 3 provides that the Joint Committee provided for in Article 29 of the Agreement may decide to amend the provisions of this protocol.
- (3) The regional Convention on pan-Euro-Mediterranean preferential rules of origin<sup>3</sup>, hereafter 'the Convention', aims at replacing the protocols on rules of origin currently in force among the countries of the pan-Euro-Mediterranean area with a single legal act.
- (4) The EU and Switzerland signed the Convention on 15 June 2011.
- (5) The EU and Switzerland deposited their instruments of acceptance with the depositary of the Convention on 26 March 2012 and 28 November 2011, respectively. As a consequence, in application of its Article 10(3), the Convention entered into force in relation to the EU and Switzerland on 1 May 2012 and 1 January 2012, respectively.
- (6) The participants in the Stabilisation and Association Process have been included in the pan-Euro-Mediterranean zone of cumulation of origin through the Convention.

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<sup>1</sup> OJ L 300, 31.12.1972, p. 189.

<sup>2</sup> Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine, Syria and Tunisia.

<sup>3</sup> OJ L 54, 26.2.2013, p. 4.

- (7) Where the transition towards the Convention is not simultaneous for all Contracting Parties within the cumulation area, it should not lead to any less favourable situation than previously under the Protocol.
- (8) Protocol 3 to the Agreement should therefore be amended so as to make reference to the Convention.

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

*Article 1*

Protocol 3 to the Agreement concerning the definition of the concept of 'originating products' and methods of administrative cooperation shall be replaced by the text set out in the Annex to this Decision.

*Article 2*

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

It shall apply from [1 xx 2014].

Done at

*For the Joint Committee  
The Chairman*

*ANNEX*

**Protocol 3**

**concerning the definition of the concept of 'originating products' and methods of administrative cooperation**

*Article 1*

**Applicable rules of origin**

For the purpose of implementing this Agreement, Appendix I and the relevant provisions of Appendix II to the Regional Convention on pan-Euro-Mediterranean preferential rules of origin<sup>1</sup>, hereafter 'the Convention', shall apply.

All references to the 'relevant agreement' in Appendix I and in the relevant provisions of Appendix II to the Regional Convention on pan-Euro-Mediterranean preferential rules of origin shall be construed so as to mean this Agreement.

*Article 2*

**Dispute settlement**

Where disputes arise in relation to the verification procedures of Article 32 of Appendix I to the Convention which cannot be settled between the customs authorities requesting the verification and the customs authorities responsible for carrying out this verification, they shall be submitted to the Joint Committee.

In all cases the settlement of disputes between the importer and the customs authorities of the importing country shall take place under the legislation of that country.

*Article 3*

**Amendments to the Protocol**

The Joint Committee may decide to amend the provisions of this Protocol.

*Article 4*

**Withdrawal from the Convention**

1. Should either the EU or Switzerland give notice in writing to the depositary of the Convention of their intention to withdraw from the Convention according to its Article 9, the EU and Switzerland shall immediately enter into negotiations on rules of origin for the purpose of implementing this Agreement.

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<sup>1</sup> OJ L 54, 26.2.2013, p. 4.

2. Until the entry into force of such newly negotiated rules of origin, the rules of origin contained in Appendix I and, where appropriate, the relevant provisions of Appendix II to the Convention, applicable at the moment of withdrawal, shall continue to apply to this Agreement. However, as of the moment of withdrawal, the rules of origin contained in Appendix I and, where appropriate, the relevant provisions of Appendix II to the Convention shall be construed so as to allow bilateral cumulation between the EU and Switzerland only.

#### *Article 5*

#### **Transitional provisions – cumulation**

1. Notwithstanding Article 3 of Appendix I to the Convention, the rules on cumulation provided for in Articles 3 and 4 of Protocol 3 to this Agreement, as amended by Decision Nr 3/2005 of the EU-Switzerland Joint Committee of 15 December 2005<sup>2</sup>, shall continue to apply between the EU and Switzerland until the Convention has entered into application with relation to all Contracting Parties listed in these Articles 3 and 4.

2. Notwithstanding Articles 16(5) and 21(3) of Appendix I of the Convention, where cumulation involves only EFTA States, The Faroe Islands, the EU, Turkey and the participants in the Stabilisation and Association Process, the proof of origin may be a movement certificate EUR.1 or an origin declaration.

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<sup>2</sup> OJ L 45, 15.2.2006, p. 2.