

**STABILISATION AND ASSOCIATION
BETWEEN
THE EUROPEAN UNION
AND THE FORMER YUGOSLAV
REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA**

The Stabilisation and Association Council

**Brussels, 30 September 2014
(OR. en)**

UE-FM 1453/14

LEGISLATIVE ACTS AND OTHER INSTRUMENTS

Subject: DECISION OF THE EU-FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA STABILISATION AND ASSOCIATION COUNCIL replacing Protocol 4 to the Stabilisation and Association Agreement between the European Communities and their Member States, of the one part, and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, of the other part, concerning the definition of the concept of 'originating products' and methods of administrative cooperation

DECISION No ...
OF THE EU-FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA
STABILISATION AND ASSOCIATION COUNCIL

of

**replacing Protocol 4 to the Stabilisation and Association Agreement
between the European Communities and their Member States, of the one part,
and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, of the other part,
concerning the definition of the concept of 'originating products'
and methods of administrative cooperation**

THE EU-FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA STABILISATION AND
ASSOCIATION COUNCIL,

Having regard to the Stabilisation and Association Agreement between the European Communities and their Member States, of the one part, and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, of the other part¹, and in particular Article 40 thereof,

Having regard to Protocol 4 to the Stabilisation and Association Agreement between the European Communities and their Member States, of the one part, and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, of the other part, concerning the definition of the concept of 'originating products' and methods of administrative cooperation,

¹ OJ L 84, 20.3.2004, p. 13.

Whereas:

- (1) Article 40 of the Stabilisation and Association Agreement between the European Communities and their Member States, of the one part, and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, of the other part ('the Agreement') refers to Protocol 4 to the Agreement ('Protocol 4') which lays down the rules of origin and provides for cumulation of origin between the Union, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey and any country or territory participating in the Union's Stabilisation and Association Process.
- (2) Article 39 of Protocol 4 provides that the Stabilisation and Association Council provided for in Article 108 of the Agreement may decide to amend the provisions of Protocol 4.
- (3) The Regional Convention on pan-Euro-Mediterranean preferential rules of origin¹ ('the Convention') aims to replace the protocols on rules of origin currently in force among the countries of the pan-Euro-Mediterranean area with a single legal act. The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and other participants to the Stabilisation and Association Process from the Western Balkans were invited to join the system of pan-European diagonal cumulation of origin in the Thessaloniki agenda, endorsed by the European Council of June 2003. They were invited to join the Convention by a decision of the Euro-Mediterranean Ministerial Conference of October 2007.
- (4) The Union and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia signed the Convention on 15 June 2011.

¹ OJ L 54, 26.2.2013, p. 4.

- (5) The Union and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia deposited their instruments of acceptance with the depositary of the Convention on 26 March 2012 and 14 June 2012, respectively. Consequently, in application of Article 10(3) of the Convention, the Convention entered into force in relation to the European Union and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia on 1 May 2012 and on 1 August 2012, respectively.
- (6) Where the transition towards the Convention is not simultaneous for all contracting parties to the Convention within the cumulation zone, it should not lead to any less favourable situation than previously under Protocol 4.
- (7) Protocol 4 should therefore be replaced by a new protocol making reference to the Convention,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

Protocol 4 to the Stabilisation and Association Agreement between the European Communities and their Member States, of the one part, and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, of the other part, 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 date of its adoption.

It shall apply from

Done at ...,

*For the Stabilisation and Association Council
The President*

ANNEX

Protocol 4

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

Article 1

Applicable rules of origin

1. 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 origin¹ ('the Convention') shall apply.
2. 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

1. Where disputes arise in relation to the verification procedures of Article 32 of Appendix I to the Convention that cannot be settled between the customs authorities requesting the verification and the customs authorities responsible for carrying out that verification, they shall be submitted to the Stabilisation and Association Council.

¹ OJ L 54, 26.2.2013, p. 4.

2. 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 Stabilisation and Association Council may decide to amend the provisions of this Protocol.

Article 4

Withdrawal from the Convention

1. Should either the European Union or the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia give notice in writing to the depositary of the Convention of their intention to withdraw from the Convention according to Article 9 thereof, the European Union and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia shall immediately enter into negotiations on rules of origin for the purpose of implementing this Agreement.
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 European Union and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia 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 this Protocol, as amended by the Protocol to the Stabilisation and Association Agreement between the European Communities and their Member States, of the one part, and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, of the other part, to take account of the accession of the Republic of Bulgaria and Romania to the European Union¹, shall continue to apply between the European Union and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia until the Convention has entered into application with relation to all Contracting Parties listed in Articles 3 and 4 of this Protocol.

2. Notwithstanding Articles 16(5) and 21(3) of Appendix I to the Convention, where cumulation involves only EFTA States, the Faroe Islands, the European Union, 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.

¹ OJ L99, 10.4.2008, p. 2.