



Council of the
European Union

Brussels, 3 October 2014
(OR. en)

18292/11
EXT 1

WTO 472
SERVICES 146
FDI 47
EG 7
RHJ 11
MA 4
TU 6
MED 37

PARTIAL DECLASSIFICATION

of document: 18292/11 RESTREINT UE/EU RESTRICTED

dated: 7 December 2011

new status: Public

Subject: Recommendation from the Commission to the Council authorising the Commission to open bilateral negotiations with Egypt, Jordan, Morocco and Tunisia to upgrade the respective Euro-Mediterranean Association Agreements with a view to establish Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Areas

Delegations will find attached the partially declassified version of the above-mentioned document.



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Brussels, 7 December 2011

**18292/11
EXT 1 (03.10.2014)**

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"I/A" ITEM NOTE

from:	General Secretariat of the Council
to:	Permanent Representatives Committee (part 2) / Council
No Cion prop.	15577/11 WTO 356 SERVICES 104 FDI 29 EG 5 RHJ 9 MA 2 TU 4 MED 31 RESTREINT UE/EU RESTRICTED
Subject:	Recommendation from the Commission to the Council authorising the Commission to open bilateral negotiations with Egypt, Jordan, Morocco and Tunisia to upgrade the respective Euro-Mediterranean Association Agreements with a view to establish Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Areas

1. On 14 October 2011, the Commission submitted to the Council the above-mentioned Recommendation to open the bilateral negotiations with Egypt, Jordan, Morocco and Tunisia to upgrade the respective Euro-Mediterranean Association Agreements with a view to establish Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Areas (doc. 15577/11).

2. The current legal bases for the EU's trade and investment relations with Egypt, Jordan, Morocco and Tunisia are the Euro-Mediterranean Association Agreements. These Agreements include free trade areas, essentially for trade in goods. Their scope has been or will be expanded with additional negotiations, notably on the establishment of dispute settlement mechanisms related to trade provisions¹, on the further liberalisation of trade in agricultural products, processed agricultural products and fisheries products², on the liberalisation of trade in services and the right of establishment³, and on agreements on conformity assessment and acceptance of industrial products⁴. Some of these negotiations have already been concluded whereas others, notably the ones on the liberalisation of trade in services and establishment, are still on-going with Egypt, Jordan, Morocco and Tunisia.
3. The Recommendation was examined by the Trade Policy Committee at its meetings on 4, 16, 18 and 25 November 2011, and was subsequently endorsed, as revised, in order to take into account the comments made by delegations on the original proposal. The Commission agreed with the revised text.

¹ On the basis of negotiating directives adopted in doc. 6489/06 MED 4 WTO 37 RESTREINT UE.

² On the basis of negotiating directives adopted in doc. 13614/05 MED 42 AGRI 281 PECHE 215 WTO 179 RESTREINT UE.

³ On the basis of negotiating directives adopted in doc. 13261/05 MED 37 WTO 167 SERVICES 49 RESTREINT UE.

⁴ On the basis of negotiating directives adopted in Decision of the Council of 21 September 1992 authorising the Commission to negotiate agreements between the EEC and certain third countries on mutual recognition relating to conformity assessment, as amended by Decisions adopted by the Council on 26 May 1997 and 8 July 2002.

4. The Permanent Representatives Committee is therefore invited to recommend that the Council and the Representatives of Member States meeting within the Council decide, as an "A" item on the agenda of one of its forthcoming meetings, to:
- authorise the Commission to open negotiations individually with Egypt, Jordan, Morocco and Tunisia with a view to establish Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Areas (DCFTAs) as part of the Euro-Mediterranean Association Agreements. **NOT DECLASSIFIED**

 - appoint the Trade Policy Committee as the Special Committee charged with assisting the Commission in the negotiations;

 - issue the attached negotiating directives (Annexes I-IV);

 - enter in the Council's minutes the declarations set out in Annex V to this Note.
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