



**COUNCIL OF  
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

**Brussels, 10 December 2013  
(OR. en)**

**14720/13**

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**Interinstitutional File:  
2013/0331 (NLE)**

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**WTO 245  
SERVICES 55**

**LEGISLATIVE ACTS AND OTHER INSTRUMENTS**

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Subject: COUNCIL DECISION on the signing, on behalf of the European Union, of the Agreements in the form of an Exchange of Letters between the European Union and its Member States on the one part and the Commonwealth of Australia, the Federative Republic of Brazil, Canada, the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China, the Republic of India and Japan on the other part pursuant to Article XXI of the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS) 1994, relating to the modifications of the commitments in the schedules of the Republic of Bulgaria and Romania in the course of their accession to the European Union

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**COUNCIL DECISION No .../2013/EU**

**of**

**on the signing, on behalf of the European Union,  
of the Agreements in the form of an Exchange of Letters between  
the European Union and its Member States on the one part  
and the Commonwealth of Australia, the Federative Republic of Brazil, Canada,  
the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China,  
the Republic of India and Japan on the other part  
pursuant to Article XXI of the General Agreement  
on Trade in Services (GATS) 1994, relating to the modifications  
of the commitments in the schedules of the Republic of Bulgaria and Romania  
in the course of their accession to the European Union**

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, and in particular Articles 91, 100(2) and Article 207(4) and (5), in conjunction with Article 218(5) thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the European Commission,

Whereas:

- (1) On 31 January 2008, the Council authorised the Commission to open negotiations with certain other Members of the World Trade Organisation under Article XXI of the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS) 1994, with a view to reaching an agreement on any necessary compensatory adjustment resulting from the modification of GATS trade commitments as a consequence of the accession of the Republic of Bulgaria and Romania to the European Union.
- (2) The Commission has conducted negotiations within the framework of the negotiating directives adopted by the Council. The negotiations have been concluded.
- (3) The Agreements in the form of an Exchange of Letters between the European Union and its Member States on the one part and the Commonwealth of Australia, the Federative Republic of Brazil, Canada, the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China, the Republic of India and Japan on the other part pursuant to Article XXI of the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS) 1994, relating to the modification of commitments in the schedules of the Republic of Bulgaria and Romania in the course of their accession to the European Union, should be signed,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

### *Article 1*

The signing of the Agreements in the form of an Exchange of Letters between the European Union and its Member States on the one part and the Commonwealth of Australia, the Federative Republic of Brazil, Canada, the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China, the Republic of India and Japan on the other part pursuant to Article XXI of the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS) 1994, relating to the modification of commitments in the schedules of the Republic of Bulgaria and Romania in the course of their accession to the European Union ('the Agreements') is authorised on behalf of the Union, subject to the conclusion of the Agreements <sup>(1)</sup>.

### *Article 2*

The President of the Council is authorised to designate the person(s) empowered to sign the Agreements on behalf of the Union.

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<sup>1</sup> The text of the Agreements will be published together with the decision on its conclusion.

*Article 3*

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

Done at Brussels,

*For the Council*

*The President*

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