



Council of the
European Union

Brussels, 10 September 2015
(OR. en)

16259/12
EXT 2

PI 147

PARTIAL DECLASSIFICATION

of document: 16259/12

dated: 15 November 2012

new status: Public

Subject: Council Decision on the participation of the European Union in the negotiations for an international agreement within the World Intellectual Property Organisation on improved access to books for print impaired persons
- Adoption

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



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Brussels, 15 November 2012

**16259/12
EXT 2 (10.09.2015)**

PI 147

"A" ITEM NOTE

from : General Secretariat
to : Council

Prev. doc.: 15377/12 PI 129 EU RESTRICTED
No. Cion prop. : 11180/12 PI 73 EU RESTRICTED

Subject : Council Decision on the participation of the European Union in the negotiations for an international agreement within the World Intellectual Property Organisation on improved access to books for print impaired persons
- Adoption

1. On 8 June 2012, the Commission submitted to the Council a Recommendation for a Council Decision authorising the Commission to negotiate an international agreement within the World Intellectual Property Organisation on improved access to books for print impaired persons.¹
2. On 7 November 2012, the Permanent Representatives Committee reached agreement on the text of the draft Council Decision on the basis of 15377/12.

¹ 11180/12 PI 73 EU RESTRICTED.

3. The Council is therefore invited to:

- adopt at one of its forthcoming sessions the Decision set out in Annex I;
- decide that the said Decision shall not be published in the Official Journal of the European Union, and
- take note of the United Kingdom's statement contained in Annex II, which will be entered in the Council's Minutes.

4. In accordance with Article 218(10) TFEU, the General Secretariat of the Council will inform the European Parliament of the adoption of the Decision.

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DECISION
OF THE COUNCIL

on the participation of the European Union in negotiations for
an international agreement within the World Intellectual Property Organisation
on improved access to books for print impaired persons

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, and in particular
Article 218(3) and (4) thereof,

Having regard to the recommendation from the European Commission,

Whereas,

- (1) At present only a limited number of published books are available in accessible formats for visually impaired and print-disabled persons throughout the world.
- (2) There is therefore a need to ensure improved access to books for persons with print disabilities at an international level in order to allow for their full and equal participation in society.
- (3) It is equally important to keep a high level of copyright protection to maintain and foster substantial investment in creativity and innovation as well as literary and artistic creation.

- (4) The UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities has entered into force for the EU on 22 January 2011 and it contains clear obligations related to the right of persons with disabilities to access information (Article 21 and 30).
- (5) Discussions on an international instrument ensuring improved access to books for visually impaired persons have been on-going in the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) for several years.
- (6) The WIPO General Assembly in October 2012 decided to convene an extraordinary session to be held in December 2012 to evaluate the latest version of the draft international instrument, as it will stand by that time, and to make a decision on whether to convene a Diplomatic Conference in 2013.
- (7) The Commission should be authorised to negotiate, on behalf of the Union, an international agreement within the World Intellectual Property Organisation on improved access to books for print impaired persons as regards matters falling within the Union's exclusive competence,

HAVE ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

1. The Commission is hereby authorised to negotiate an international agreement in the context of the World Intellectual Property Organisation on improved access to books for print impaired persons and to conduct these negotiations on behalf of the Union to the extent that the subject matter falls within the Union's exclusive competence, in consultation with the Intellectual Property Working Party (Copyright) (the "special committee").
2. The Commission shall conduct the negotiations in question in accordance with the negotiating directives set out in the Annex to this Decision to the extent that these directives refer to subject matter falling within the Union's exclusive competence.
3. The Commission shall cooperate closely with the Member States during the negotiating process, with a view to aiming for unity in the international representation of the Union and its Member States.
4. The Commission shall make sure that documents relating to the negotiations are circulated to the special committee in due time. It shall report to the Council and/or to the special committee in an open and transparent way on the outcome of the negotiations before and after each negotiating session and, where appropriate, on any problems that may arise during the negotiations.

Article 2

This Decision is addressed to the Commission.

Done at Brussels,

For the Council
The President

NEGOTIATING DIRECTIVES

NOT DECLASSIFIED

NOT DECLASSIFIED

**STATEMENT BY THE UNITED KINGDOM
ON COORDINATION BY THE MEMBER STATES
TO BE ENTERED IN THE COUNCIL MINUTES**

“The Member States will use best endeavours to coordinate in order to aim for unity in representation. The Presidency will represent the coordinated views of the Member States in respect of matters falling outside the scope of this Council Decision.”

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