



Council of the  
European Union

Brussels, 24 August 2018  
(OR. en)

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**Interinstitutional File:**  
**2018/0302(NLE)**

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ACP 67  
WTO 218  
COAFR 203  
RELEX 696

## PROPOSAL

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

date of receipt: 6 August 2018

To: Mr Jeppe TRANHOLM-MIKKELSEN, Secretary-General of the Council of  
the European Union

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No. Cion doc.: COM(2018) 573 final - ANNEX

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Subject: ANNEX to the Proposal for a Council Decision establishing the position to  
be taken on behalf of the European Union in the EPA Committee set up by  
the stepping stone Economic Partnership Agreement between Côte  
d'Ivoire, of the one part, and the European Community and its Member  
States, of the other part, concerning the accession of the Republic of  
Croatia to the European Union

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Delegations will find attached document COM(2018) 573 final - ANNEX.

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Encl.: COM(2018) 573 final - ANNEX



Brussels, 6.8.2018  
COM(2018) 573 final

ANNEX

**ANNEX**

**to the**

**Proposal for a Council Decision**

**establishing the position to be taken on behalf of the European Union in the EPA Committee set up by the stepping stone Economic Partnership Agreement between Côte d'Ivoire, of the one part, and the European Community and its Member States, of the other part, concerning the accession of the Republic of Croatia to the European Union**

## **ATTACHMENT**

DRAFT

### **DECISION No .../2018 OF THE EPA COMMITTEE**

**set up by the stepping stone Economic Partnership Agreement between Côte d'Ivoire, of the one part, and the European Community and its Member States, of the other part  
of [date]**

**concerning the accession of the Republic of Croatia to the European Union**

THE EPA COMMITTEE,

Having regard to the stepping stone Economic Partnership Agreement between Côte d'Ivoire, of the one part, and the European Community and its Member States, of the other part ('the Agreement'), signed in Abidjan on 26 November 2008, and applied on a provisional basis since 3 September 2016, and in particular Articles 76, 77 and 81 thereof,

Having regard to the Treaty concerning the Accession of the Republic of Croatia to the European Union ('the Union'), and the act of accession to the Agreement deposited by the Republic of Croatia on 8 November 2017,

Whereas:

- (1) This Agreement shall apply, on the one hand, to the territories in which the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union ('TFEU') is applied and under the conditions laid down in that Treaty and, on the other hand, to the territory of Côte d'Ivoire.
- (2) Article 77(3) of the Agreement provides that the EPA Committee may decide on any amending measures which might be necessary following the accession of new Member States to the Union,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

#### *Article 1*

The Republic of Croatia, as a Party to the Agreement, shall, in the same manner as the other Member States of the Union, respectively adopt and take note of the texts of the Agreement, as well as the Annexes, Protocols and Declarations attached thereto.

#### *Article 2*

The Agreement is amended as follows: Article 81 is replaced by the following:

#### *'Article 81*

#### **Authentic texts**

This Agreement is drawn up in duplicate in the Bulgarian, Croatian, Czech, Danish, Dutch, English, Estonian, Finnish, French, German, Greek, Hungarian, Italian, Latvian, Lithuanian, Maltese, Polish, Portuguese, Romanian, Slovak, Slovenian, Spanish and Swedish languages, each of these texts being equally authentic.'

### *Article 3*

The Union shall communicate to Côte d'Ivoire the Croatian language version of the Agreement.

### *Article 4*

The provisions of the Agreement shall apply to goods exported from either Côte d'Ivoire to the Republic of Croatia or from the Republic of Croatia to Côte d'Ivoire, which comply with the rules of origin in force in the territory of the Parties to the Agreement and which on 3 September 2016 were either in transit or in temporary storage, in a customs warehouse or in a free zone in Côte d'Ivoire or in the Republic of Croatia.

Preferential treatment shall be granted in the cases referred to in the first paragraph, subject to the submission to the customs authorities of the importing country, within four months of the date of entry into force of this Decision, of a proof of origin issued retrospectively by the customs authorities of the exporting country.

### *Article 5*

Côte d'Ivoire undertakes not to make any claim, request or referral nor to modify or withdraw any concession pursuant to Article XXIV.6 and Article XXVIII of the **General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade** ('GATT') 1994 or Article XXI of the **General Agreement on Trade in Services** ('GATS') in relation to the accession of the Republic of Croatia to the Union.

### *Article 6*

This Decision shall come into force upon its signature.

However, Articles 3 and 4 shall apply as from 3 September 2016.

Done at xxx,

*For Côte d'Ivoire*

*For the European Union*