



Council of the
European Union

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DECLASSIFICATION

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Subject: Recommendation for a Council Decision authorising the Commission to launch negotiations on behalf of the European Union for the conclusion of a new international agreement on olive oil and table olives
- *Presidency suggested amendments*

Delegations will find attached the declassified version of the above document.

The text of this document is identical to the previous version.



COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION

Brussels, 24 October 2013

15178/13

RESTREINT UE/EU RESTRICTED

PROBA 47
AGRIORG 148
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WORKING DOCUMENT

from:	General Secretariat
to:	Delegations
No Cion prop.:	13996/13 - COM(2013) 646 final
Subject:	Recommendation for a Council Decision authorising the Commission to launch negotiations on behalf of the European Union for the conclusion of a new international agreement on olive oil and table olives - <i>Presidency suggested amendments</i>

1. On 19 September 2013, the Commission submitted a Recommendation for a Council Decision to authorise the Commission to launch negotiations on behalf of the European Union for the conclusion of a new international agreement on olive oil and table olives.
2. Further to the Working Party on Commodities meeting on 8 October 2013 and to the comments received from the delegations¹, the Presidency has suggested some amendments (marked in ***bold and italics***, and ~~*strikethrough*~~) to the draft Council Decision as set out in Annex.

¹ Docs 15028/13 (ES delegation) + ADD 1 (FR delegation) + ADD 2 (IT delegation) + ADD 3 (EL delegation) EU RESTRICTED.

3. With a view to the approval of the Decision by the Council before the IOC session in November 2013, delegations are invited to consider the attached revised text. If no objections are received by the Council Secretariat **by 30 October 2013 (c.o.b.)**, the revised text will be considered as approved by the Working Party on Commodities.

Note: Due to the restricted nature of the mandate, delegations are kindly invited to submit any written comments on paper in a closed envelope to the GSC addressed to:

DGB Agriculture
Council of the European Union
Rue de la Loi, 175
1048 Bruxelles
Stella Theodossiadis
JL 40 DH 35

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Draft Council Decision

authorising the Commission to launch negotiations on behalf of the European Union for the conclusion of a new international agreement on olive oil and table olives

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, and in particular Articles 207, 218(3) and (4) *TFEU* thereof,

Having regard to the recommendation of the European Commission,

Whereas:

- (1) The European Union is a member of several international agricultural organisations, notably the International Olive Council.
- (2) It is in the European Union's interest to participate in a new international agreement on olive oil and table olives, considering the importance of that sector for a number of Member States and for the economy of the European olive-oil sector.
- (3) It is therefore appropriate that the Commission be authorised to launch negotiations for the conclusion of an international agreement on olive oil, that negotiating guidelines be established and that a special committee be appointed that will be consulted by the Commission when conducting the negotiations,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

The Commission is authorised to launch negotiations on behalf of the European Union for the conclusion of a new international agreement on olive oil and table olives.

Article 2

The negotiating guidelines are presented in the Annex *to this Decision*.

Article 3

The negotiations will be conducted in consultation with the Council's Working Party on Commodities (PROBA) *acting as a Special Committee in the sense of Article 218 (4) TFEU.*

Article 4

This Decision is addressed to the Commission.

Done at Brussels,

For the Council
The President

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NEGOTIATING DIRECTIVES

The European Union should push for an agreement that guarantees:

- that the globalisation of the olive market be taken into account by reinforcing the organisation and expanding it so that it can accept *new members including both the supply as well as the demand side as many exporting and importing countries as possible*;
- that the *definition of categorisation in 'exporting/producing' and 'importing/consuming'* members and the basis for calculating the participating shares be *clearly established clearly taking into account both production and trade flows*;
- that the current objectives of the organisation be adapted to take account of economic, technical and commercial developments in the olive sector *while respecting its specificities* and serve the common interests of all members, *importers and exporters*;
- that the organisation *only carry out mainly focuses on* international activities that concern common interests of a fundamental nature *such as* (an international marketing standard, common inspection methods to improve and ensure quality);
- that the decision-making procedure of the organisation be clearly defined and meet the organisation's needs and objectives, having regard to the interests of *both importers and exporters all members*;
- that the structure of the organisation support the objectives and that the financial aspects of the agreement be updated;
- *that organisational matters such as the quorum required for every session and the rules of the payment of contributions are re-assessed.*

During the ~~initial~~ negotiations ~~phase~~, the Commission *shall regularly consult and report to the Council's Working Party on Commodities (PROBA). In order to ensure the efficiency of the negotiation process, the Commission may is authorised to* present *any* relevant views on *any* issues not referred to in these guidelines.