



Council of the
European Union

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PROBA 50
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DECLASSIFICATION

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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, 7 November 2013

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**PROBA 50
AGRIORG 160
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NOTE

Subject: 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

DECLASSIFIED

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

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;
- that the categorisation of 'exporting/producing' and, 'importing/consuming' members and the basis for calculating the participating shares be clearly established taking into account both production and trade flows;
- that the current objectives of the organisation be adapted to take account of economic, technical, research, and commercial developments in the olive sector while respecting its specificities and serve the common interests of all members;
- that the organisation 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 all members;
- that the structure of the organisation support the objectives and that the financial aspects of the agreement, including the budget structure, be updated recalling the need for a clear link between contributions and participating shares;
- that organisational matters such as the selection of the Executive Director, the election and term of office of the President and Vice President, the quorum required for every session and the rules on the payment of contributions (including incentive and enforcement measures) as well as the need for regular reporting are re-assessed.

During the negotiations, 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 present ad referendum relevant views on issues not yet discussed in the Working Party on Commodities (PROBA) and not referred to in these guidelines and shall return to the Council's Working Party on Commodities (PROBA) after each negotiation round.

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