



Council of the
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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.

¹ Document declassified by the European Commission on 29 March 2019.



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COVER NOTE

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

date of receipt: 19 April 2017

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

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Subject: ANNEX to the RECOMMENDATION FOR A COUNCIL DECISION
authorising the opening of negotiations on the adaptation of protocols to
the Agreement between the European Union and the Kingdom of Morocco

Delegations will find attached document COM(2017) 191 final.

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Brussels, 19.4.2017
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ANNEX 1

ANNEX

to the

RECOMMENDATION FOR A COUNCIL DECISION

**authorising the opening of negotiations on the adaptation of protocols to the Agreement
between the European Union and the Kingdom of Morocco**

DECLASSIFIED

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RECOMMENDATION FOR A COUNCIL DECISION

authorising the opening of negotiations on the adaptation of protocols to the Agreement between the European Union and the Kingdom of Morocco

DIRECTIVES FOR THE NEGOTIATION OF AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN

the European Union and the Kingdom of Morocco on the adaptation of protocols to the Association Agreement between the European Union and the Kingdom of Morocco

The negotiation should be based on the privileged partnership developed between the European Union and the Kingdom of Morocco and should aim at adapting the instruments of this partnership to the shared ambition of the parties to further such partnership, the Association agreement and its Protocols forming essential parts thereof.

The Commission should ensure that trade preferences foreseen in the EU-Morocco Association Agreement and its protocols are provided to products originating in Western Sahara. No additional tariff preferences should be negotiated as such. The Commission should also ensure that the agreement explicitly provides for an appropriate framework and process allowing the parties, on the basis of regular exchanges of information, to evaluate its impact during implementation, and discuss impediments to the proper functioning of the agreement.

This entails appropriate revisions in relevant Protocols to the Association Agreement.

The form of the agreement should be an exchange of letters.

The Commission should have enough information to assess, at the time of signature, the potential implications of the agreement on sustainable development, in particular as regards the benefits for the local population and the exploitation of natural resources of the territories concerned.

It shall be ensured that the protocols are applied in line with the provisions of the Association Agreement relevant to the respect of fundamental freedoms and human rights.

The Commission should endeavour to ensure that, at the time of its proposal for signature and conclusion, the people concerned by the agreement have been adequately involved.

The Commission should do its utmost to ensure that the agreement can be implemented as soon as possible.

The negotiations and their outcome should be supportive of the efforts of the United Nations Secretary-General to find a solution providing for the self determination of the people of

Western Sahara consistent with the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations.

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