



Brussels, 4 October 2024
(OR. en)

14186/24
ADD 1

UD 202
COMER 116
MED 38
WTO 120

PROPOSAL

From:	Secretary-General of the European Commission, signed by Ms Martine DEPREZ, Director
date of receipt:	3 October 2024
To:	Ms Thérèse BLANCHET, Secretary-General of the Council of the European Union

No. Cion doc.:	COM(2024) 429 final
----------------	---------------------

Subject:	ANNEX to the proposal for a Council Decision on the position to be taken on behalf of the European Union within the Association Council established by the Euro-Mediterranean Agreement establishing an association between the European Communities and their Member States, of the one part, and the State of Israel, of the other part, establishing the general requirements on proofs of origin issued electronically according to Article 17(4) of Appendix A to Protocol 4 to that Agreement
----------	---

Delegations will find attached document COM(2024) 429 final.

Encl.: COM(2024) 429 final



EUROPEAN
COMMISSION

Brussels, 3.10.2024
COM(2024) 429 final

ANNEX

ANNEX

to the

proposal for a Council Decision

on the position to be taken on behalf of the European Union within the Association Council established by the Euro-Mediterranean Agreement establishing an association between the European Communities and their Member States, of the one part, and the State of Israel, of the other part, establishing the general requirements on proofs of origin issued electronically according to Article 17(4) of Appendix A to Protocol 4 to that Agreement

ANNEX

[Draft] DECISION No ... OF THE EU-ISRAEL ASSOCIATION COUNCIL of XX XX 2024

establishing the general requirements on proofs of origin issued electronically according to Article 17(4) of Appendix A to Protocol 4 to the Euro-Mediterranean Agreement establishing an association between the European Communities and their Member States, of the one part, and the State of Israel, of the other part

The EU- ISRAEL ASSOCIATION COUNCIL,

Having regard to the Euro-Mediterranean Agreement establishing an association between the European Communities and their Member States, of the one part, and the State of Israel, of the other part¹ (the Agreement), and in particular Article 69 of the Agreement and Article 38 of Protocol 4 thereto,

Whereas,

- (1) The COVID-19 pandemic accelerated the need for a paperless customs environment in the field of rules of origin and a vast majority of Contracting Parties to the Regional Convention on pan-Euro-Mediterranean preferential rules of origin² (the Convention) decided to accept electronic copies of movement certificates.
- (2) Applying Contracting Parties developed electronic systems or adapted existing systems to balance the need for digitalisation with the requirements of the movement certificate form described in the Transitional rules of origin (Appendix A to Protocol 4 to the Agreement).
- (3) Considering the development of customs electronic systems, the EU and the State of Israel (the Parties) acknowledge that proofs of origin in the form of movement certificates should benefit from a modernisation concerning their issuance, submission and verification.
- (4) A network of bilateral protocols on rules of origin among Contracting Parties to the the Convention entered into force rendering the Transitional rules of origin applicable³, since 1 September 2021.
- (5) The Parties affirm their commitment to continue the good practices introduced under the exceptional measures during the COVID-19 pandemic, recognise the importance of introducing electronic means and work together towards a common system based on electronic proofs of origin and electronic administrative cooperation within the pan-Euro-Mediterranean zone (PEM zone).
- (6) The Parties consider that moving to electronic proofs of origin and digitalised administrative cooperation under the framework of the Transitional rules of origin constitutes the first steps

¹ OJ L 147, 21.6.2000, p. 3.

² OJ L 54, 26.2.2013, p. 4.

³ OJ C/2024/1637.

towards a full digitalization of proofs of origin at the scale of the PEM zone, especially in the view of the forthcoming entry into force of the amendment of the Convention⁴.

- (7) The Parties agreed to implement the provisions of Article 17(4) of Appendix A to Protocol 4 to the Agreement, as regards proofs of origin issued electronically, thus originating products shall benefit from these provisions,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION

Article 1

Considering Article 17(4) of Appendix A to Protocol 4 to the Agreement, the Parties agree that the proofs of origin referred to in Article 17(1), point (a), may be issued electronically.

Article 2

The Parties shall accept movement certificates issued electronically when submitted at importation where all of the following conditions are fulfilled:

- (a) the movement certificates issued electronically have a similar form as the specimen referred to in Annex IV to the Appendix A;
- (b) the customs authorities of the exporting Party provide for a secured online internet-based system to verify the authenticity of movement certificates issued electronically;
- (c) the movement certificates issued electronically bear a unique serial number, and, if available, security features by which they can be identified;
- (d) the date from which a Party starts the issuance of electronic movement certificates is specified in the notices published in the Official Journal of the European Union (C series) and according to that Party's own procedures. The acceptance of the movement certificates issued electronically shall apply from the date indicated in those notices.

Article 3

A Party may decide to suspend the acceptance of movement certificates issued electronically where the conditions listed under Article 2 are not fulfilled, and shall inform the other Party thereof in advance. The notices referred to in Article 2, point (d), shall indicate the starting date of the suspension.

Article 4

For the purpose of administrative cooperation according to Articles 34 and 35 of Appendix A to Protocol 4 to the Agreement, the Parties may decide to assist each other through electronic means.

Article 5

Notices indicating the application of this Decision shall be published in the *Official Journal of the European Union* (C series) and in an official publication in the State of Israel, in accordance with its own procedures.

Article 6

⁴ OJ L 390/2024

Articles 1 to 5 shall apply until the date of entry into force of the Parties' agreement to use a pan-Euro-Mediterranean digital environment for proofs of origin developed with the other applying Contracting Parties that allows proofs of origin to be issued and/or submitted electronically.

Article 7

As the Transitional rules of origin shall cease to apply on the date of entry into force of the amendment of the Convention, Articles 1 to 6 of this Decision shall continue to apply between the parties within the framework of the Convention, until the date of entry into force of the Decision of the Joint Committee of the Convention establishing the general requirements on proofs of origin issued and/or submitted electronically.

Article 8

This Decision shall enter into force on the first day of the first month after the later of the two Parties has notified the other Party of the completion of its internal requirements.

Done at...

For the Association Council

The President

The Secretaries