



Council of the
European Union

Brussels, 27 October 2020
(OR. en)

11629/20

**Interinstitutional File:
2020/0131 (NLE)**

**ACP 103
WTO 233
COASI 113
RELEX 723**

LEGISLATIVE ACTS AND OTHER INSTRUMENTS

Subject: COUNCIL DECISION on the position to be taken on behalf of the European Union within the Trade Committee established under the Interim Partnership Agreement between the European Community, of the one part, and the Pacific States, of the other part, as regards the amendment to that Agreement to take account of the accession of the Independent State of Samoa and of Solomon Islands

COUNCIL DECISION (EU) 2020/...

of ...

**on the position to be taken on behalf of the European Union
within the Trade Committee established under the Interim Partnership Agreement
between the European Community, of the one part,
and the Pacific States, of the other part,
as regards the amendment to that Agreement to take account of the accession
of the Independent State of Samoa and of Solomon Islands**

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, and in particular the first subparagraph of Article 207(4), in conjunction with Article 218(9) thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the European Commission,

Whereas:

- (1) The Interim Partnership Agreement between the European Community, of the one part, and the Pacific States, of the other part¹ (the ‘Agreement’), which establishes a framework for an economic partnership agreement, was signed in London on 30 July 2009. The Agreement has been provisionally applied by the Independent State of Papua New Guinea and by the Republic of Fiji since 20 December 2009 and 28 July 2014, respectively.
- (2) Article 80 of the Agreement provides for the accession of the other Pacific Island States. By Decisions (EU) 2018/1908² and (EU) 2020/409³, respectively, the Council approved the accession of the Independent State of Samoa (Samoa) and the accession of Solomon Islands to the Agreement. Samoa acceded to the Agreement on 21 December 2018 and has provisionally applied it since 31 December 2018. Solomon Islands acceded to the Agreement on 7 May 2020 and have provisionally applied it since 17 May 2020.
- (3) Following the accessions of Samoa and Solomon Islands, it is necessary to amend Annex II to the Agreement to add those countries’ market access offers to that Annex.
- (4) Article 68 of the Agreement establishes a Trade Committee that is to deal with all matters necessary for the implementation of the Agreement.

¹ OJ L 272, 16.10.2009, p. 2.

² Council Decision (EU) 2018/1908 of 6 December 2018 on the accession of Samoa to the Interim Partnership Agreement between the European Community, of the one part, and the Pacific States, of the other part (OJ L 333, 28.12.2018, p. 1).

³ Council Decision (EU) 2020/409 of 17 February 2020 on the accession of Solomon Islands to the Interim Partnership Agreement between the European Community, of the one part, and the Pacific States, of the other part (OJ L 85, 20.3.2020, p. 1).

- (5) By Decision (EU) 2019/1707¹, the Council determined the position to be taken on behalf of the Union in the Trade Committee as regards those amendments. At its seventh meeting, held on 3 to 4 October 2019, the Trade Committee adopted a Recommendation to the Parties to the Agreement recommending, among other things, to amend the Agreement to take account of the accession of Samoa and of future accessions of other Pacific Island States.
- (6) Article 13 of the Agreement provides that the Trade Committee by agreement may modify Annex II to the Agreement in any manner deemed appropriate. Accordingly, at its eighth meeting, the Trade Committee will be able to introduce that technical amendment to the Agreement to take account of the accession of Samoa and of Solomon Islands.
- (7) The Union should determine the position to be taken within the Trade Committee at its eighth meeting as regards the proposed amendment.
- (8) The position of the Union within the Trade Committee at its eighth meeting should therefore be based on the draft Decision of the Trade Committee,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

¹ Council Decision (EU) 2019/1707 of 17 June 2019 on the position to be taken, on behalf of the European Union, in the Trade Committee established under the Interim Partnership Agreement between the European Community, of the one part, and the Pacific States, of the other part, as regards a recommendation for certain amendments to be made to the Agreement to take account of the accession of Samoa and of future accessions of other Pacific Island States (OJ L 260, 11.10.2019, p. 45).

Article 1

The position to be taken on the Union's behalf within the Trade Committee at its eighth meeting as regards the amendment to the Interim Partnership Agreement between the European Community, of the one part, and the Pacific States, of the other part, to take account of the accession of the Independent State of Samoa and of Solomon Islands, shall be based on the draft Decision of the Trade Committee¹.

Article 2

This Decision shall enter into force on the date of its adoption.

Done at ...,

For the Council

The President

¹ See document ST 11630/20 on <http://register.consilium.europa.eu>.