



Council of the  
European Union

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#### **LEGISLATIVE ACTS AND OTHER INSTRUMENTS**

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Subject: COUNCIL DECISION authorising the opening of negotiations with the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria, the Arab Republic of Egypt, the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, the Republic of Lebanon and the Kingdom of Morocco for agreements setting out the terms and conditions for their participation in the Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Area (PRIMA), jointly undertaken by several Member States

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**COUNCIL DECISION (EU) 2017/...**

**of ...**

**authorising the opening of negotiations with  
the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria,  
the Arab Republic of Egypt, the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan,  
the Republic of Lebanon and the Kingdom of Morocco  
for agreements setting out the terms and conditions  
for their participation in the Partnership  
for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Area (PRIMA),  
jointly undertaken by several Member States**

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, and in particular Article 185 and the second paragraph of Article 188, in conjunction with Article 218(3) and (4) thereof,

Having regard to the recommendation from the European Commission,

Whereas:

- (1) Regulation (EU) No 1291/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council<sup>1</sup> established the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (2014-2020) ("Horizon 2020"). Horizon 2020 aims to achieve a greater impact on research and innovation by contributing to the strengthening of public-public partnerships, including through Union participation in programmes undertaken by several Member States as provided for in Article 185 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU).
- (2) On 18 October 2016, the Commission adopted a proposal for a Decision of the European Parliament and of the Council on the participation of the Union in the Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Area (PRIMA) jointly undertaken by several Member States ("PRIMA Decision").
- (3) PRIMA aims to implement a joint programme to foster research and innovation capacities and to develop knowledge and common innovative solutions for improving the efficiency, safety, security and sustainability of agro-food systems and of integrated water provision and management in the Mediterranean area.

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<sup>1</sup> Regulation (EU) No 1291/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 December 2013 establishing Horizon 2020 – the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (2014-2020) and repealing Decision No 1982/2006/EC (OJ L 347, 20.12.2013, p. 104).

- (4) Nineteen countries have agreed to jointly undertake PRIMA by committing financial contributions: Croatia, Cyprus, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Luxembourg, Malta, Portugal, Slovenia and Spain, among the Member States; Israel, Tunisia and Turkey, as third countries associated to Horizon 2020; and Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon and Morocco, as third countries not associated to Horizon 2020.
- (5) Under the PRIMA Decision, all the countries participating in PRIMA are to have the same rights and obligations. The third countries not associated to Horizon 2020 can however participate in PRIMA only subject to the conclusion of international agreements with the Union setting out the terms and conditions of their participation in PRIMA.
- (6) Negotiations should be opened with a view to concluding international agreements in the field of scientific and technological cooperation with Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon and Morocco, setting out the terms and conditions for their participation in PRIMA.
- (7) Negotiations can be started on the condition that the PRIMA Decision is adopted by the European Parliament and by the Council,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

### *Article 1*

The Commission is hereby authorised to open negotiations, on behalf of the Union, for international agreements with the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria, the Arab Republic of Egypt, the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, the Republic of Lebanon and the Kingdom of Morocco, setting out the terms and conditions for their participation in the Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Area (PRIMA), subject to the adoption of the PRIMA Decision by the European Parliament and by the Council.

### *Article 2*

The negotiations shall be conducted by the Commission on the basis of the negotiating directives of the Council set out in the addendum to this Decision.

*Article 3*

The negotiations shall be conducted in consultation with the Working Party of the Council on Research, as the special committee designated by the Council.

*Article 4*

This Decision is addressed to the Commission.

Done at ...,

*For the Council*

*The President*

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