Council of the
European Union

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LEGISLATIVE ACTS AND OTHER INSTRUMENTS

Subject:	COUNCIL DECISION on the position to be taken on behalf of the European Union within the EU-CTC Joint Committee established by the Convention of 20 May 1987 on the simplification of formalities in trade in goods and within the EU-CTC Joint Committee established by the Convention of 20 May 1987 on a Common transit procedure as regards invitations to Ukraine to accede to those Conventions

COUNCIL DECISION (EU) 2022/…

of …

on the position to be taken on behalf of the European Union within the EU-CTC Joint Committee established by the Convention of 20 May 1987 on the simplification of formalities in trade in goods and within the EU-CTC Joint Committee established by the Convention of 20 May 1987 on a Common transit procedure as regards invitations to Ukraine to accede to those Conventions

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

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

Having regard to the proposal from the European Commission,

Whereas:

(1) The Convention on the simplification of formalities in trade in goods[1] and the Convention on a common transit procedure[2] ('the Conventions') between the European Economic Community, the Republic of Austria, the Republic of Finland, the Republic of Iceland, the Kingdom of Norway, the Kingdom of Sweden and the Swiss Confederation on 20 May 1987 were concluded by Council Decision 87/267/EEC[3] and Council Decision 87/415/EEC[4] respectively and entered into force on 1 January 1988.

(2) Ukraine has expressed its wish to accede to the Conventions once it has complied with the requirements for its accession.

(3) Pursuant to Article 11(3) of the Convention on the simplification of formalities in trade in goods, the EU-CTC Joint Committee set up by that Convention may adopt, by decision, invitations to third countries to accede to that Convention.

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1 OJ L 134, 22.5.1987, p. 2.

2 OJ L 226, 13.8.1987, p. 2.

3 Council Decision 87/267/EEC of 28 April 1987 concerning the conclusion of a Convention between the European Economic Community and the Republic of Austria, the Republic of Finland, the Republic of Iceland, the Kingdom of Norway, the Kingdom of Sweden and the Swiss Confederation on the simplification of formalities in trade in goods (OJ L 134, 22.5.1987, p. 1).

4 Council Decision 87/415/EEC of 15 June 1987 concerning the conclusion of a Convention between the European Community, the Republic of Austria, the Republic of Finland, the Republic of Iceland, the Kingdom of Norway, the Kingdom of Sweden and the Swiss Confederation on a common transit procedure (OJ L 226, 13.8.1987, p. 1).

(4) Pursuant to Article 15(3) of the Convention on a common transit procedure, the EU-CTC Joint Committee set up by that Convention may adopt, by decision, invitations to third countries to accede to that Convention.

(5) It is appropriate to establish the position to be taken on the Union's behalf in the Joint Committees established by the Conventions, with regard to the invitations to Ukraine to accede to those Conventions, as those Decisions will be binding on the Union.

(6) The Conventions are part of the Union acquis and are part of the pre-accession strategy for Ukraine. The Conventions will ensure efficient border crossing procedures between Ukraine and the parties to the Conventions.

(7) The invitations are in line with the Commission's opinion on the membership application of Ukraine to the European Union and the endorsement of that opinion by the European Council on 23 June 2022 that granted the status of candidate country to Ukraine.

(8) The position of the Union within the Joint Committees established by the Conventions with regard to the invitations to Ukraine to accede to those Conventions should therefore be favourable and should be based on the attached draft Decisions.

(9) In accordance with the Conventions, a third country that is invited to become a contracting party is to do so by lodging an instrument of accession and that the accession is to become effective on the first day of the second month following the lodging of the instrument of accession.

(10) In order to facilitate Ukraine's timely accession, it is necessary to adopt this Decision without delay,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

The position to be taken on the Union's behalf within the EU-CTC Joint Committee established by the Convention of 20 May 1987 on the simplification of formalities in trade in goods at the next meeting or by means of the next written procedure of that Joint Committee, as regards an invitation to Ukraine to accede to that Convention, shall be based on the draft Decision of that Joint Committee set out in Annex I to this Decision.

Article 2

The position to be taken on the Union's behalf within the EU-CTC Joint Committee established by the Convention of 20 May 1987 on a common transit procedure at the next meeting or by means of the next written procedure of that Joint Committee, as regards an invitation to Ukraine to accede to that Convention, shall be based on the draft Decision of that Joint Committee set out in Annex II to this Decision.

Article 3

After their adoption, the Decisions of the Joint Committees referred to in Articles 1 and 2 shall be published in the *Official Journal of the European Union*.

Article 4

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

Done at Brussels,

For the Council
The President