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LEGISLATIVE ACTS AND OTHER INSTRUMENTS

Subject: COUNCIL DECISION on the conclusion of the Agreement in the form of an Exchange of Letters amending and supplementing the Agreement for scientific and technological cooperation between the European Union and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, setting out the terms and conditions for the participation of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan in the Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Area (PRIMA)

COUNCIL DECISION (EU) 2024/...

of ...

**on the conclusion
of the Agreement in the form of an Exchange of Letters
amending and supplementing the Agreement
for scientific and technological cooperation between the European Union
and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan,
setting out the terms and conditions
for the participation of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan
in the Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Area (PRIMA)**

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, and in particular Article 186 and Article 218(6)(a), point (v), thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the European Commission,

Having regard to the consent of the European Parliament,

Whereas:

- (1) Decision (EU) 2017/1324 of the European Parliament and of the Council¹ established the Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Area (PRIMA) under Horizon 2020 – Framework Programme for Research and Innovation² for a period until 31 December 2028.
- (2) Jordan is one of 19 Participating States in PRIMA, having concluded an agreement on scientific and technological cooperation, which set out the terms and conditions for its participation in PRIMA³ ('the PRIMA Agreement'). The PRIMA Agreement is to remain in force for as long as Decision (EU) 2017/1324 is in force.

¹ Decision (EU) 2017/1324 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 4 July 2017 on the participation of the Union in the Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Area (PRIMA) jointly undertaken by several Member States (OJ L 185, 18.7.2017, p.1).

² 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).

³ Agreement between the European Community and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan on Scientific and Technological Cooperation (OJ L 159, 17.6.2011, p. 108).

- (3) Decision (EU) 2024/1167 of the European Parliament and of the Council⁴ extended PRIMA's overall duration until 31 December 2031 and provides for Jordan to continue be a Participating State in PRIMA under Horizon 2020. Moreover, that Decision provides for Jordan to be considered a Participating State for the purposes of its participation in the activities of PRIMA under Horizon Europe⁵ subject to the conclusion of an agreement in the form of an Exchange of Letters amending and supplementing the existing international agreement for scientific and technological cooperation with the Union and setting out the new terms and conditions of the participation of Jordan in PRIMA.
- (4) Since Jordan has expressed its interest in continuing to be a Participating State for the purposes of the activities of PRIMA under Horizon Europe, it should formally accept the updated terms and conditions.

⁴ Decision (EU) 2024/1167 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 April 2024 amending Decision (EU) 2017/1324 as regards the continuation of the Union's participation in the Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Area (PRIMA) under Horizon Europe (OJ L, 2024/1167, 19.4.2024, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/dec/2024/1167/oj>).

⁵ Regulation (EU) 2021/695 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 April 2021 establishing Horizon Europe – the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation, laying down its rules for participation and dissemination, and repealing Regulations (EU) No 1290/2013 and (EU) No 1291/2013 (OJ L 170, 12.5.2021, p. 1, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2021/695/oj>).

- (5) To that end, on 9 November 2023, the Council adopted Decision (EU) 2023/2621⁶, which authorised the Commission to negotiate an agreement in the form of an Exchange of Letters amending and supplementing the PRIMA Agreement, which sets out the terms and conditions for the participation of Jordan in the PRIMA under Horizon Europe.
- (6) Those negotiations were finalised on 15 February 2024, and in accordance with Council Decision (EU) 2024/...⁷⁺ the Agreement in the form of an Exchange of Letters amending and supplementing the agreement for scientific and technological cooperation between the European Union and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, setting out the terms and conditions for the participation of Jordan in the Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Area (PRIMA), was signed on behalf of the Union on ... 2024, subject to its conclusion at a later date.

⁶ Council Decision (EU) 2023/2621 of 9 November 2023 authorising the opening of negotiations for agreements, in the form of an Exchange of Letters, amending and supplementing the agreements for scientific and technological cooperation between the European Union and 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, respectively, setting out the terms and conditions for their participation with regard to Horizon Europe in the Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Area (PRIMA) jointly undertaken by several Member States (OJ L, 2023/2621, 21.11.2023, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/dec/2023/2621/oj>).

⁷ Council Decision (EU) 2024/... of ... on the signing, on behalf of the European Union, of the Agreement, in the form of an Exchange of Letters, amending and supplementing the Agreement for scientific and technological cooperation between the European Union and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, setting out the terms and conditions for the participation of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan in the Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Area (PRIMA) (OJ L, ..., ELI: ...).

⁺ OJ: Please insert in the text the number of the Decision contained in document ST 14277/24 and insert the number, date and OJ reference of that Decision in the footnote.

- (7) The Agreement should be approved on behalf of the Union.
- (8) In accordance with the Treaties, the Commission should make the notification provided for in the Agreement,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

The Agreement between the European Union and Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, in the form of an Exchange of Letters, amending and supplementing the Agreement for scientific and technological cooperation between the European Union and Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, setting out the terms and conditions for the participation of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan in the Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Area (PRIMA) ('the Agreement'), is hereby approved on behalf of the Union.

Article 2

The Commission shall proceed, on behalf of the Union, to make the notification provided for in the Agreement, in order to express the consent of the Union to be bound by the Agreement.

Article 3

This Decision shall enter into force on the date of its adoption⁸.

Done at ..., ...

For the Council

The President

⁸ The text of the Agreement will be published together with the decision on its conclusion.