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Interinstitutional Files:

2014/0045(NLE)
2014/0047(NLE)
2014/0046(NLE)
2014/0048(NLE)
2014/0049(NLE)
2014/0050(NLE)

LIMITE

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'I/A' ITEM NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Permanent Representatives Committee/Council

Subject: a) Council Decision on the conclusion of the Agreement on the participation of the Republic of Croatia in the European Economic Area and of three related agreements
- Adoption
b) Agreement on the participation of the Republic of Croatia in the European Economic Area and of three related agreements
- Approval of the Irish language version

1. On 18 February 2014, the Commission submitted to the Council proposals for Council Decisions on the signing and provisional application of:
 - a) the Agreement on the participation of the Republic of Croatia in the European Economic Area and the related Protocol, to take account of the accession of the Republic of Croatia to the European Union (doc. 6690/14 + ADD 1-4)
 - b) an Additional Protocol to the Agreement between the European Economic Community and the Kingdom of Norway, to take account of the accession of Croatia to the European Union (doc. 6697/14 + ADD 1) and

- c) an Additional Protocol to the Agreement between the European Economic Community and the Republic of Iceland, to take account of the accession of Croatia to the European Union (doc. 6685/14 + ADD 1).
2. On the same date, the Commission submitted to the Council a proposal for a Council Decision on the conclusion of the Agreement on the participation of the Republic of Croatia in the European Economic Area (EEA).
 3. At the meeting of the Working Party on European Free Trade Association (EFTA) of 4 March 2014, delegations agreed to the substance of the above-mentioned Commission proposals and decided to merge the three files into one.
 4. On 24 March 2014, the Council adopted the Council Decision on the signing and provisional application of the Agreement on the participation of the Republic of Croatia in the European Economic Area and of three related agreements, as set out, after finalisation by the Legal/Linguistic experts, in doc. 6693/14.¹
 5. On the same date, the Council decided to request the consent of the European Parliament, following the signature, on the basis of the draft Council Decision on the conclusion of the Agreement on the participation of the Republic of Croatia in the European Economic Area and of three related agreements, as set out, after finalisation by the Legal/Linguistic experts, in doc. 6698/14.
 6. The Agreement on the participation of the Republic of Croatia in the EEA and the three related agreements were signed on 11 April 2014.
 7. On 16 December 2014, the European Parliament gave its consent.
 8. On 19 July 2024, the ratification procedures of the Agreement and of the three related agreements by Member States were finalised.

¹ The agreement and the related agreements, after finalisation by the Legal/Linguistic experts, are set out in doc. 6696/14.

9. On 17 September 2024, the Irish-language versions of both the draft Council Decision on the conclusion of the Agreement on the participation of the Republic of Croatia in the European Economic Area and of three related agreements (doc 6698/14) as well as the Agreement and related Protocols themselves (doc 6696/14) have been made available.
10. On 27 January 2025, the Working Party on European Free Trade Association (EFTA) was informed of the state of play of this file.
11. A *Note Verbale* will be sent to the EEA third parties that references to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland in the Agreement on the participation of the Republic of Croatia in the European Economic Area have become obsolete.
12. Considering the above, the Permanent Representatives' Committee is invited to recommend that the Council, through an 'A' item in one of its forthcoming meetings:
 - adopt the Council Decision on the conclusion of the Agreement on the participation of the Republic of Croatia in the European Economic Area and of three related agreements, as set out, after finalisation by the Legal/Linguistic experts, in doc. 6698/14,
 - approve the Irish-language version of the Agreement and related Protocols themselves (doc 6696/14),
 - order the publication of the Irish-language version of the Agreement and the related Protocols in the Official Journal of the European Union.
13. The European Parliament will be informed in accordance with Article 218(10) TFUE and the Council Decision will be transmitted to the European Parliament.