



Council of the  
European Union

Brussels, 6 May 2025  
(OR. en)

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**Interinstitutional File:**  
**2025/0055(NLE)**

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**ACP 20**  
**WTO 24**  
**RELEX 430**  
**COASI 48**

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

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Subject: COUNCIL DECISION on the accession of Vanuatu to the Interim Partnership Agreement between the European Community, of the one part, and the Pacific States, of the other part

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**COUNCIL DECISION (EU) 2025/...**

**of ...**

**on the accession of Vanuatu to the Interim Partnership Agreement  
between the European Community, of the one part,  
and the Pacific States, of the other part**

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, and in particular the Article 207(4), first subparagraph, in conjunction with Article 218(6), second subparagraph, point (a)(v), thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the European Commission,

Having regard to the consent of the European Parliament<sup>1</sup>,

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<sup>1</sup> Consent of the European Parliament of [date].

Whereas:

- (1) On 12 June 2002, the Council authorised the Commission to open negotiations for Economic Partnership Agreements with the Organisation of the African, Caribbean and Pacific States.
- (2) The Interim Partnership Agreement between the European Community, of the one part, and the Pacific States, of the other part<sup>2</sup> (the ‘Interim Partnership Agreement’) was signed on 30 July 2009 and has been provisionally applied since 20 December 2009 in accordance with Council Decision 2009/729/EC<sup>3</sup>. The Interim Partnership Agreement has been provisionally applied by Papua New Guinea since 20 December 2009 and the Republic of the Fiji since 28 July 2014.
- (3) Article 80 of the Interim Partnership Agreement lays down the provisions regarding the accession of other Pacific Islands States thereto. Accordingly, Samoa and Solomon Islands have acceded to the Interim Partnership Agreement and have been provisionally applying it since 31 December 2018 and 17 May 2020, respectively.
- (4) On 10 July 2024, Vanuatu submitted a request for accession together with a market access offer to the Union.

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<sup>2</sup> OJ L 272, 16.10.2009, p. 2, ELI: [http://data.europa.eu/eli/agree\\_internation/2009/729/oj](http://data.europa.eu/eli/agree_internation/2009/729/oj).

<sup>3</sup> Council Decision 2009/729/EC of 13 July 2009 on the signature and provisional application of the Interim Partnership Agreement between the European Community, of the one part, and the Pacific States, of the other part (OJ L 272, 16.10.2009, p. 1, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/dec/2009/729/oj>).

- (5) The Commission has assessed Vanuatu's offer and found it acceptable. Accordingly, the Commission concluded negotiations with Vanuatu on 7 August 2024.
- (6) In accordance with Article 76(3) of the Interim Partnership Agreement, the Union and Vanuatu are to provisionally apply the Interim Partnership Agreement 10 days after notifying each other in writing of the completion of the procedures necessary for that purpose.
- (7) The accession of Vanuatu to the Interim Partnership Agreement should be approved, subject to Vanuatu's deposit of the act of accession in accordance with Article 80(2) thereof,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

### *Article 1*

1. The accession of Vanuatu to the Interim Partnership Agreement between the European Community, of the one part, and the Pacific States, of the other part (the ‘Interim Partnership Agreement’) is hereby approved on behalf of the Union, subject to Vanuatu’s deposit of the act of accession in accordance with Article 80(2) thereof.
2. The text of the market access offer of Vanuatu is attached to this Decision.

### *Article 2*

The Union and Vanuatu shall provisionally apply the Interim Partnership Agreement 10 days after they have notified each other in writing of the completion of the procedures necessary for that purpose in accordance with Article 76(3) of the Interim Partnership Agreement.

### *Article 3*

The approval of the accession of Vanuatu to the Interim Partnership Agreement shall not be construed as conferring rights or imposing obligations which can be directly invoked before Union or Member State courts or tribunals.

*Article 4*

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

Done at ..., ...

*For the Council*

*The President*

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