



Malta-EU Steering & Action Committee

COMPETITIVENESS AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS

Sectoral Committee
Weekly Update
18.03.10

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COM (2010) 14 - Proposal for a COUNCIL DECISION on a Union position within the EU - Mexico Joint Committee relating to Annex III to Decision No 2/2000 of the EU-Mexico Joint Council concerning the definition of the concept of 'originating products' and methods of administrative cooperation

The Economic Partnership, Political Coordination and Cooperation Agreement between the European Community and Mexico was signed in Brussels on 8 December 1997. The trade liberalisation provisions were laid down in Decision No 2/2000 of the EU-Mexico Joint Council. Annex III to Decision No 2/2000 of the EU-Mexico Joint Council, concerning the definition of the concept of 'originating products' and methods of administrative cooperation, sets out the rules of origin for the products originating in the territory of the Parties to the Agreement. Mexico and the Union have agreed to introduce certain amendments to the rules of origin contained in Annex III to Decision No 2/2000.

Some of the rules of origin contained in Annex III to Decision No 2/2000 were originally agreed on a temporary basis and require regular monitoring. This is the case in particular for the special rules applying to certain chemical products. The temporary derogation for chemical products was initially agreed until 30 June 2003. This period was subsequently extended until 30 June 2006 and until 30 June 2009. It is now proposed to extend the period of application of these special rules for another five years, i.e. until 30 June 2014.

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2010:0014:FIN:EN:PDF>

COM (2010) 18 - Proposal for a COUNCIL DECISION XX authorising Member States to accede to the Convention relating to international exhibitions

The Republic of Latvia has expressed its wish to accede to the Convention relating to international exhibitions signed at Paris. The function of the Paris Convention is to regulate the frequency, quality and procedures of international exhibitions falling within its remit.



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Article 16 and the Annex on "Customs Regulations for the importation of articles by the participants in international exhibitions" of the Paris Convention require countries organising exhibitions to allow for temporary admission of objects by the participants in international exhibitions. Granting temporary admission is regulated in Articles 137 to 144 of the Community Customs Code, Council Regulation (EEC) 2913/92.

The European Union itself cannot accede to the Paris Convention, as only sovereign States can be parties thereto. Insofar as the Paris Convention regulates aspects falling within the European Union customs legislation, a Member State wishing to accede to that Convention therefore requires a Union authorisation.

So far 24 Member States have acceded to the Paris Convention.

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2010:0018:FIN:EN:PDF>

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- Council Decisions required for amendments in the Harmonised System

The World Customs Organisation (WCO) released its latest amendment to the Harmonised Commodity Description and Coding System, generally referred to as "Harmonised System" (HS). This amendment took effect from 1 January 2007. The HS nomenclature is a goods classification system used by more than 190



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countries, including the European Union and its Member States, as a basis for their Customs tariffs and for the collection of international trade statistics.

The WCO is responsible for the HS and revises the system at regular intervals, every five years, to ensure it reflects changes in technology or in patterns of international trade.

The modifications concern seven chapters of the HS, namely 28 (chemicals), 30 (pharmaceutical products), 38 (miscellaneous), 65 (hats and other headgear), 84 and 85 (machinery) and 95 (toys).

These amendments were discussed by the experts of the Pan-Euro-Med Working Group, which is composed of representatives of the European Commission, of the Member States, the EFTA countries (Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Switzerland), the EFTA secretariat, Turkey, the Faeroe Islands, Andorra and San Marino and the countries which participate in the Euro-Mediterranean partnership, based on the Barcelona Declaration adopted in 1995.

The agreements are needed with:

- Palestinian Authority of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip Turkey
- Norway
- Algeria
- Tunisia
- Egypt
- Jordan
- Morocco
- Lebanon
- Faroe Island
- Iceland
- Israel

http://ec.europa.eu/prelex/detail_dossier_real.cfm?CL=en&DosId=199010

COM (2010) 55 - Proposal for a COUNCIL DECISION on a Union position within the EU-Japan Joint Customs Cooperation Committee



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concerning the mutual recognition of Authorised Economic Operator programmes in the European Union and in Japan

EU-Japan relations in the area of customs are based on the Agreement on Cooperation and Mutual Administrative Assistance in Customs Matters that entered into force on 1 February 2008. Both sides have confirmed that mutual recognition is a priority.

The council decision regarding mutual recognition of authorised economic operators in the European Union and in Japan calls for developing customs co-operation in order to facilitate trade.

In this document the Commission is proposing the position to be taken by the Union within the Joint Customs Cooperation Committee established by the Agreement between the European Community and the Government of Japan on cooperation and mutual administrative assistance in customs matters, with regard to the mutual recognition of Authorised Economic Operators programmes in the European Union and in Japan.

http://ec.europa.eu/prelex/detail_dossier_real.cfm?CL=en&DosId=199044