



Brussels, 24.4.2017
COM(2017) 187 final

2017/0083 (NLE)

Proposal for a

COUNCIL DECISION

on the conclusion, on behalf of the European Union and its Member States, of the Protocol to the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement establishing a partnership between the European Communities and their Member States, of the one part, and the Republic of Uzbekistan, of the other part, to take account of the accession of the Republic of Croatia to the European Union

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

The attached proposal constitutes the legal instrument for the conclusion of a Protocol to the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement establishing a partnership between the European Communities and their Member States, of the one part, and the Republic of Uzbekistan, of the other part, to take account of the accession of the Republic of Croatia to the European Union ('the Protocol').

According to its Act of Accession, Croatia undertakes to accede to the international agreements signed or concluded by the European Union and its Member States by means of a protocol to those agreements.

The Partnership and Cooperation Agreement establishing a partnership between the European Communities and their Member States, of the one part, and the Republic of Uzbekistan, of the other part, hereinafter referred to as 'the Agreement', was signed on 21 June 1996 and entered into force on 1 July 1999.

Following the Council Decision of on the signing, on behalf of the European Union and its Member States, and provisional application of the Protocol to the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement establishing a partnership between the European Communities and their Member States, of the one part, and the Republic of Uzbekistan, of the other part, to take account of the accession of the Republic of Croatia to the European Union, the Protocol was signed in... on

The proposed Protocol incorporates the Republic of Croatia as a contracting party to the Agreement and commits the Union to providing the authentic version of the Agreement in the Croatian language.

The Commission proposes that the Council concludes the Protocol on behalf of the European Union and its Member States.

The European Parliament will be called upon to give its consent to the Protocol.

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THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, and in particular Articles 207 and 209, in conjunction with Article 218(6)(a) thereof,

Having regard to the Act of Accession of the Republic of Croatia, and in particular Article 6(2) thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the European Commission,

Having regard to the consent of the European Parliament,

Whereas

- (1) In accordance with Council Decision No.../.../EU,¹ the Protocol to the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement establishing a partnership between the European Communities and their Member States, of the one part, and the Republic of Uzbekistan, of the other part, to take account of the accession of the Republic of Croatia to the European Union ('the Protocol') has been signed on ...[*Please insert date*], subject to its conclusion at a later date.
- (2) The conclusion of the Protocol is subject to a separate procedure as regards matters falling within the competence of the European Atomic Energy Community.
- (3) The Protocol should be approved on behalf of the Union and its Member States,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

¹ Council Decision (EU) .../... of ... on the signing, on behalf of the European Union and its Member States, and provisional application of the Protocol to the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement establishing a partnership between the European Communities and their Member States, of the one part, and the Republic of Uzbekistan, of the other part, to take account of the accession of the Republic of Croatia to the European Union (OJ L...).

Article 1

The Protocol to the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement establishing a partnership between the European Communities and their Member States, of the one part, and the Republic of Uzbekistan, of the other part, to take account of the accession of the Republic of Croatia to the European Union, is hereby approved on behalf of the Union and its Member States.

The text of this Protocol is attached to this Decision.

Article 2

The President of the Council shall designate the person empowered to proceed, on behalf of the Union and its Member States, to the notification provided for in Article 4(1) of the Protocol.

Article 3

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

Done at Brussels,

*For the Council
The President*