DRAFT RECOMMENDATION

on the draft Council decision on the accession of the European Union to the Geneva Act of the Lisbon Agreement on Appellations of Origin and Geographical Indications
(06929/2019 – C8-0133/2019 – 2018/0214(NLE))

Committee on Legal Affairs

Rapporteur: Virginie Rozière
Symbols for procedures

* Consultation procedure
*** Consent procedure
***I Ordinary legislative procedure (first reading)
***II Ordinary legislative procedure (second reading)
***III Ordinary legislative procedure (third reading)

(The type of procedure depends on the legal basis proposed by the draft act.)
DRAFT EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION


(Consent)

The European Parliament,

– having regard to the draft Council decision (06929/2019),
– having regard to the Geneva Act of the Lisbon Agreement on Appellations of Origin and Geographical Indications signed in Geneva on 20 May 2015,
– having regard to the request for consent submitted by the Council in accordance with Article 207, in conjunction with Article 218(6), second subparagraph, point (a), of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (C8-0133/2019),
– having regard to Rule 99(1) and (4) and Rule 108(7) of its Rules of Procedure,
– having regard to the recommendation of the Committee on Legal Affairs and also the opinions of the Committee on International Trade and the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (A8-0000/2019),

1. Gives its consent to the accession of the European Union to the Act;
2. Instructs its President to forward its position to the Council, the Commission and the governments and parliaments of the Member States.
EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

The Lisbon Agreement for the Protection of Appellations of Origin and their International Registration of 31 October 1958 created a ‘Special Union’ within the framework of the Union for the Protection of Industrial Property established by the 1883 Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property.

The contracting parties to the agreement undertake to protect, on their territories, the appellations of origin of products of the other countries within the Special Union which are recognised and protected as such in the country of origin and which are registered at the International Bureau of Intellectual Property of the World Intellectual Property Organization, unless those parties declare that they cannot ensure such protection.

Seven Member States are parties to the Lisbon Agreement, namely Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, France, Italy, Hungary, Portugal and Slovakia. Three other Member States have signed but not ratified the Lisbon Agreement, namely Greece, Spain and Romania.

On 20 May 2015, the Geneva Act revised the Lisbon Agreement. The Geneva Act expands the scope of the Lisbon system beyond appellations of origin to cover all geographical indications and makes it possible for international organisations, such as the European Union, to become contracting parties.

The Union has exclusive competence for the areas covered by the Geneva Act. This was confirmed in a judgment of the Court of Justice of the European Union.

Regarding certain agricultural products, the Union has established uniform and comprehensive protection systems for geographical indications for wines (1970), spirits (1989), aromatised wines (1991) and other agricultural products and foodstuffs (1992). Without accession to the Geneva Act of the Lisbon Agreement, however, the Union and its Member States would not enjoy the benefits it offers in that area.

The rapporteur therefore welcomes the Council’s decision to approve the Union’s accession to the Geneva Act. She also welcomes the fact that the Member States have been given the opportunity to accede to the act in the interests of the Union, with the Union retaining exclusive competence. The Union will thus enjoy voting rights, whilst being able to take proper account of the specific situation of the Member States that are already contracting parties to the Lisbon Agreement.