



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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Plenary sitting

A7-0248/2011

24.6.2011

RECOMMENDATION

on the draft Council decision on the conclusion of the Agreement between the European Union, the Swiss Confederation and the Principality of Liechtenstein amending the Additional Agreement between the European Community, the Swiss Confederation and the Principality of Liechtenstein extending to the Principality of Liechtenstein the Agreement between the European Community and the Swiss Confederation on trade in agricultural products (16209/2010 – C7– 0125/2011 – 2010/0313(NLE))

Committee on International Trade

Rapporteur: Béla Glattfelder

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.)

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DRAFT EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION

**on the draft Council decision on the conclusion of the Agreement between the European Union, the Swiss Confederation and the Principality of Liechtenstein amending the Additional Agreement between the European Community, the Swiss Confederation and the Principality of Liechtenstein extending to the Principality of Liechtenstein the Agreement between the European Community and the Swiss Confederation on trade in agricultural products
(16209/2010 – C7- 0125/2011– 2010/0313(NLE))**

(Consent)

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the draft Council decision (16209/2010),
 - having regard to the draft Agreement between the European Union, the Swiss Confederation and the Principality of Liechtenstein amending the Additional Agreement between the European Community, the Swiss Confederation and the Principality of Liechtenstein extending to the Principality of Liechtenstein the Agreement between the European Community and the Swiss Confederation on trade in agricultural products (16210/2010),
 - having regard to the request for consent submitted by the Council in accordance with Article 207(4), first subparagraph and Article 218(6), second subparagraph, point (a)(v), of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (C7-0125/2011),
 - having regard to Rules 81 and 90(8) of its Rules of Procedure,
 - having regard to the recommendation of the Committee on International Trade (A7-0248/2011),
1. Consents to conclusion of the Agreement;
 2. Instructs its President to forward its position to the Council, the Commission and the governments and parliaments of the Member States and of the Swiss Confederation and the Principality of Liechtenstein.

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

EU trade relations with Liechtenstein are closely associated with EU trade relations with the Swiss Confederation, which is the European Union's fourth trading partner. The EU and Switzerland have defined their relations by establishing bilateral treaties in various fields. In order to minimise the negative consequences of the rejection of the EEA agreement by Switzerland in 1992, negotiations for commercial agreements were launched in seven sectors, including agricultural products. The "agricultural Agreement" was concluded in 1999 and has been in force since 1 June, 2002.

The EC-Switzerland agricultural Agreement was subsequently extended to the Principality of Liechtenstein. This extension (the "Additional Agreement") entered into force on 13 October 2007 and has implied that any modification to the agricultural Agreement causes a modification of the EU-Switzerland-Liechtenstein agreement.

Now, by adding a new annex (Annex 12) to the agricultural Agreement, the EU and Switzerland to ensure seek to ensure the mutual recognition of protected designations of origins and protected geographical indications in order to preserve the conditions of bilateral trade in agricultural products while promoting the quality of the food chain. Precisely, pursuant to the Additional Agreement, Liechtenstein products are deemed to be of Swiss origin. Therefore, the Additional Agreement between the European Community, the Swiss Confederation and the Principality of Liechtenstein also needs to be amended so that the protection of geographical indications also applies to Liechtenstein. Two names designated under Swiss Geographic Indications will also cover the territory of Liechtenstein.

The new Annex 12 to the "Agricultural Agreement" will improve of the bilateral EC-Switzerland agricultural trade. Therefore amending the "Additional Agreement" is also a positive and necessary step.

The rapporteur recommends Parliament to give its consent to the agreement.

RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE

Date adopted	21.6.2011
Result of final vote	+: 23 -: 0 0: 2
Members present for the final vote	William (The Earl of) Dartmouth, Laima Liucija Andrikienė, Kader Arif, David Campbell Bannerman, Daniel Caspary, Marielle De Sarnez, Christofer Fjellner, Yannick Jadot, Metin Kazak, Bernd Lange, David Martin, Emilio Menéndez del Valle, Vital Moreira, Paul Murphy, Cristiana Muscardini, Godelieve Quisthoudt-Rowohl, Niccolò Rinaldi, Tokia Saïfi, Helmut Scholz, Peter Šťastný, Robert Sturdy, Keith Taylor, Iuliu Winkler, Pablo Zalba Bidegain, Paweł Zalewski
Substitute(s) present for the final vote	Catherine Bearder, George Sabin Cutaş, Syed Kamall, Maria Eleni Koppa, Elisabeth Köstinger, Jörg Leichtfried, Jarosław Leszek Wałęsa