














Procedure file

Basic information	
NLE - Non-legislative enactments	2019/0099(NLE)
EC/Pacific States Interim Partnership Agreement: accession of Solomon Islands	
Subject	
3.15.15.06 Fisheries agreements with Pacific countries	
6.20.05 Multilateral and plurilateral economic and trade agreements and relations	
6.40.06 Relations with ACP countries, conventions and generalities	
Geographical area	
Solomon Islands	
Procedure completed	

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	 International Trade	 LANGE Bernd	23/09/2019
		Shadow rapporteur	
		 MCALLISTER David	
		 Číž Miroslav	
		 LØKKEGAARD Morten	
		 FRAGKOS Emmanouil	
	Former committee responsible		
	 International Trade		
	Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
	 Development		22/10/2019
		 TOBÉ Tomas	
	 Fisheries	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
	Former committee for opinion		
	 Development		
	 Fisheries		
Council of the European Union	Commission DG	Commissioner	
European Commission			

Key events

29/04/2019	Preparatory document	COM(2019)0204	
04/06/2019	Legislative proposal published	09405/2019	Summary
15/07/2019	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
03/12/2019	Vote in committee		
09/12/2019	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading	A9-0050/2019	Summary
17/12/2019	Results of vote in Parliament		
17/12/2019	Decision by Parliament	T9-0089/2019	Summary
12/02/2020	Act adopted by Council after consultation of Parliament		
05/03/2020	End of procedure in Parliament		
20/03/2020	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2019/0099(NLE)
Procedure type	NLE - Non-legislative enactments
Procedure subtype	Consent by Parliament
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	INTA/9/00467

Documentation gateway

Preparatory document		COM(2019)0204	29/04/2019	EC	
Legislative proposal		09405/2019	04/06/2019	CSL	Summary
Committee draft report		PE642.904	29/10/2019	EP	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE643.212	15/11/2019	EP	
Committee opinion	DEVE	PE642.995	03/12/2019	EP	
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading		A9-0050/2019	09/12/2019	EP	Summary
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading		T9-0089/2019	17/12/2019	EP	Summary

Final act

Decision 2020/409 OJ L 085 20.03.2020, p. 0001 Summary

PURPOSE: to approve, on behalf of the European Union, Solomon Islands' accession to the Interim Partnership Agreement between the European Union, of the one part, and the Pacific States, of the other part.

PROPOSED ACT: Council Decision.

ROLE OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT: Council may adopt the act only if Parliament has given its consent to the act.

BACKGROUND: on 12 June 2002, the Council authorised the Commission to open negotiations for Economic Partnership Agreements with the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States.

The Interim Partnership Agreement between the European Community, of the one part, and the Pacific States, of the other part, which establishes a framework for an Economic Partnership Agreement, was signed in London on 30 July 2009. The Interim Partnership Agreement has been provisionally applied by Papua New Guinea, Fiji and Samoa since 20 December 2009, 28 July 2014 and 31 December 2018, respectively. The Agreement lays down the provisions regarding the accession of other Pacific Island States.

In accordance with the Agreement, Solomon Islands submitted to the Council on 4 June 2018 an application for membership and an offer of market access. The Commission examined Solomon Islands' offer and, after modifications, has found it acceptable. Accordingly, the Commission concluded negotiations with Solomon Islands on 23 October 2018.

CONTENT: the draft Council decision concerns the approval, on behalf of the Union, of Solomon Islands' accession to the Interim Partnership Agreement between the European Union, of the one part, and the Pacific States, of the other part, subject to the deposit of the Act of Accession by Solomon Islands.

The EPA is a development-oriented trade agreement, which offers asymmetric market access to Solomon Islands and allows it to shield sensitive sectors from liberalisation, while providing a large number of safeguards and a clause for infant industry protection. It further contains provisions on the rules of origin that facilitate Solomon Islands' exports into the EU.

Over the course of its implementation, the EPA will largely relieve EU exporters of industrial products to Solomon Islands from paying customs duties. Indeed, the EPA covers 90.3% of tariff lines, or 83% of the EU's export volume over 15 years.

The Agreement also contains provisions on sustainable development.

In accordance with the Agreement, the Union and Solomon Islands are to apply the Agreement on a provisional basis ten days after they have notified each other in writing that the necessary procedures have been completed.

EC/Pacific States Interim Partnership Agreement: accession of Solomon Islands

The Committee on International Trade adopted the report by André ROUGÉ (ID, FR) on the draft Council decision on the accession of Solomon Islands to the Interim Partnership Agreement between the European Community, of the one part, and the Pacific States, of the other part.

The committee recommended that the European Parliament give its consent to Solomon Islands' accession to the agreement.

The draft Council Decision implements the Partnership Agreement between the members of the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Group of States, of the one part, and the European Community and its Member States, of the other part, signed in Cotonou on 23 June 2000.

On 30 July 2009, the EU signed the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) between the European Community, on the one hand, and the Pacific States, on the other. The EPA has been provisionally applied by the Independent State of Papua New Guinea, the Republic of Fiji and the Independent State of Samoa since 20 December 2009, 28 July 2014 and 31 December 2018, respectively. It provides for the accession of other Pacific Island States.

The EPA is a development-oriented trade agreement, which offers asymmetric market access to Solomon Islands and allows it to shield sensitive sectors from liberalisation, while providing a large number of safeguards and a clause for infant industry protection. It further contains provisions on the rules of origin that facilitate Solomon Islands' exports into the EU and provisions on sustainable development.

EC/Pacific States Interim Partnership Agreement: accession of Solomon Islands

The European Parliament adopted by 534 votes to 45, with 13 abstentions, a legislative resolution on the draft Council decision on the accession of Solomon Islands to the Interim Partnership Agreement between the European Community, of the one part, and the Pacific States, of the other part.

Following the recommendation of its Committee on International Trade, the European Parliament gave its consent to the accession of Solomon Islands to the Agreement.

The EPA is a development-oriented trade agreement, which offers asymmetric market access to Solomon Islands and allows it to shield sensitive sectors from liberalisation, while providing a large number of safeguards and a clause for infant industry protection. It further contains provisions on the rules of origin that facilitate Solomon Islands' exports into the EU and provisions on sustainable development.

EC/Pacific States Interim Partnership Agreement: accession of Solomon Islands

PURPOSE: accession of Solomon Islands to the Interim Partnership Agreement between the European Community, of the one part, and the Pacific States, of the other part.

NON-LEGISLATIVE ACT: Council Decision (EU) 2020/409 on the accession of Solomon Islands to the Interim Partnership Agreement between the European Community, of the one part, and the Pacific States, of the other part.

CONTENT: the Council decided to approve, on behalf of the Union, the accession of Solomon Islands to the Interim Partnership Agreement between the European Community, of the one part, and the Pacific States, of the other part, subject to the deposit of the Act of Accession by Solomon Islands in accordance with the Interim Partnership Agreement.

According to Article 76(3) of the Interim Partnership Agreement, the Union and Solomon Islands are to apply the Interim Partnership Agreement on a provisional basis 10 days after they have notified each other in writing that the procedures necessary for that purpose have been completed.

It is recalled that the Interim Partnership Agreement between the European Community, of the one part, and the Pacific States, of the other part, establishing a framework for an Economic Partnership Agreement, was signed in London on 30 July 2009. The Interim Partnership Agreement has been provisionally applied by Papua New Guinea, Fiji and Samoa since 20 December 2009, 28 July 2014 and 31 December 2018 respectively.

On 4 June 2018, Solomon Islands submitted to the Council a request for accession and a market access offer. The Commission has assessed Solomon Islands offer and, after amendments, found it acceptable. Accordingly, the Commission concluded negotiations with Solomon Islands on 23 October 2018.

The EPA is a development-oriented trade agreement, which offers asymmetric market access to Solomon Islands and allows it to shield sensitive sectors from liberalisation, while providing a large number of safeguards and a clause for infant industry protection. It further contains provisions on the rules of origin that facilitate Solomon Islands' exports into the EU and provisions on sustainable development.

Over the course of its implementation, the EPA will largely relieve EU exporters of industrial products to Solomon Islands from paying customs duties. Indeed, the EPA covers 90.3% of the tariff lines or 83% of the volume of EU exports over 15 years. The agreement also contains provisions on sustainable development.

ENTRY INTO FORCE: 17.2.2020.