



Brussels, 31.7.2015  
COM(2015) 381 final

2015/0166 (NLE)

Proposal for a

## **COUNCIL DECISION**

**on the position of the European Union on the Rules of Procedure of the EPA Committee set up by the interim Agreement with a view to an Economic Partnership Agreement between the European Community and its Member States, of the one part, and the Central Africa Party<sup>1</sup>, of the other part**

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<sup>1</sup> At this stage, and for the purposes of the interim Agreement towards an EPA, the Central Africa Party is composed of the Republic of Cameroon, the only country to have signed and ratified the Agreement so far.

## **EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM**

### **1. CONTEXT OF THE PROPOSAL**

The interim Agreement with a view to an Economic Partnership Agreement between the European Community and its Member States, of the one part, and the Central Africa Party, currently composed of the Republic of Cameroon, of the other part, was signed on 15 January 2009 and has been provisionally applied since 4 August 2014.

Article 92 of the said Agreement establishes an EPA Committee, which shall be responsible for the administration of all areas covered by the Agreement and for the completion of all tasks referred to in the Agreement.

Article 92 also specifies that the Parties shall agree on the composition, organisation and functioning of the EPA Committee.

### **2. LEGAL BASIS, SUBSIDIARITY AND PROPORTIONALITY**

The proposal includes a proposal for a decision of the Council of the European Union based on Article 218(9) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union to establish a European Union position. Similar decisions have been adopted in the past to adopt internal rules for other economic partnership agreements.

This Council Decision includes as an annex a draft Decision to be taken by the EPA Committee at one of its next meetings, including as an annex the draft Rules of Procedure of the EPA Committee. The Rules of Procedure were approved and initialled by the two Parties at the inaugural meeting of the EPA Committee on 11 and 12 May 2015 in Brussels.

### **3. RESULTS OF EX-POST EVALUATIONS, STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATIONS AND IMPACT ASSESSMENTS**

The obligation to draw up rules of procedure was laid down in the interim Agreement. After consulting each other in advance, the two Parties to the Agreement approved and initialled the text at the inaugural meeting of the EPA Committee on 11 and 12 May 2015 in Brussels.

No impact assessment has been carried out for this proposal since it has no direct economic, social or environmental impact.

### **4. BUDGETARY IMPLICATION**

The financial impact is limited to administrative expenditure.

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**on the position of the European Union on the Rules of Procedure of the EPA Committee set up by the interim Agreement with a view to an Economic Partnership Agreement between the European Community and its Member States, of the one part, and the Central Africa Party<sup>1</sup>, of the other part**

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty on European Union and the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, in particular Articles 207 and 209 and Article 218(9) thereof,

Having regard to Council Decision 2009/152/EC on the signature and provisional application of the interim Agreement with a view to an Economic Partnership Agreement between the European Community and its Member States, of the one part, and the Central Africa Party, of the other part<sup>2</sup>

Having regard to the proposal from the European Commission,

Whereas:

1. The interim Agreement with a view to an Economic Partnership Agreement between the European Community and its Member States, of the one part, and the Central Africa Party, was signed on 15 January 2009 and has been provisionally applied since 4 August 2014.
2. Article 92 of the said Agreement establishes an EPA Committee, which shall be responsible for the administration of the Agreement and for the completion of all tasks referred to therein.
3. Article 92 also specifies that the Parties shall agree on the composition, organisation and functioning of the EPA Committee.
4. The European Union should determine the position to be taken with regard to the adoption of the Rules of Procedure of the EPA Committee,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

### *Article 1*

The position of the European Union with a view to the adoption of the Decision of the EPA Committee provided for by the interim Agreement for an Economic Partnership Agreement between the European Community and its Member States, of the one part, and the Central Africa Party, of the other part, regarding its Rules of Procedure, shall be based on the draft Decision of the EPA Committee annexed to this Decision.

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<sup>1</sup> At this stage, and for the purposes of the interim Agreement towards an EPA, the Central Africa Party is composed of the Republic of Cameroon, the only country to have signed and ratified the Agreement so far.

<sup>2</sup> OJ L 57, 28.2.2009, p. 1.

Minor amendments to the draft Decision which involve no change of substance shall be authorised without a new decision by the Commission or the Council.

*Article 2*

After its adoption, the Decision of the EPA Committee shall be published in the *Official Journal of the European Union*.

*Article 3*

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

Done at Brussels,

*For the Council  
The President*