



Brussels, 24.8.2018
COM(2018) 603 final

2018/0310 (NLE)

Proposal for a

COUNCIL DECISION

**on the conclusion, on behalf of the European Union and its Member States,
of a Protocol to the Euro-Mediterranean Agreement establishing an association
between the European Communities and their Member States, of the one part,
and the Republic of Tunisia, of the other part, to take account of the accession
of the Republic of Croatia to the European Union**

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

The Euro-Mediterranean Agreement establishing an association between the European Communities and their Member States, of the one part, and the Republic of Tunisia, of the other part, was signed in Brussels on 17 July 1995. The Agreement entered into force on 1 March 1998.

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

The attached proposal is the legal instrument for concluding the Protocol to the Agreement, to take account of the accession of the Republic of Croatia to the European Union.

On 14 September 2012¹, the Council authorised the Commission to open negotiations with the third countries concerned, in order to conclude the relevant protocols. The negotiations with the Republic of Tunisia were successfully concluded on 11 May 2018.

The Commission judges the results of the negotiations to be satisfactory and requests the Council to adopt the attached proposal for a Decision on the conclusion of the Protocol after obtaining the European Parliament's consent.

¹ Council Decision authorising the opening of negotiations for the adaptation of agreements signed or concluded between the European Union, or the European Union and its Member States, with one or more third countries or international organisations, in view of the accession of the Republic of Croatia to the European Union (Council document 13351/12 LIMITED).

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on the conclusion, on behalf of the European Union and its Member States, of a Protocol to the Euro-Mediterranean Agreement establishing an association between the European Communities and their Member States, of the one part, and the Republic of Tunisia, of the other part, to take account of the accession of the Republic of Croatia to the European Union

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, and in particular Article 217, 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) The Euro-Mediterranean Agreement establishing an association between the European Communities and their Member States, of the one part, and the Republic of Tunisia, of the other part² (hereinafter referred to as 'the Agreement'), was signed on 17 July 1995. The Agreement entered into force on 1 March 1998.
- (2) The Republic of Croatia became a Member State of the European Union on 1 July 2013.
- (3) In accordance with Article 6(2) of the Act of Accession of the Republic of Croatia, the accession of the Republic of Croatia to the Agreement is to be agreed by means of a protocol to the Agreement ('the Protocol'). Under a simplified procedure, a protocol is to be concluded between the Council, acting unanimously on behalf of the Member States, and the third country concerned.
- (4) On 14 September 2012, the Council authorised the Commission to open negotiations with the third countries concerned in view of the accession of the Republic of Croatia to the Union. The negotiations with the Republic of Tunisia were concluded successfully on 11 May 2018.
- (5) In accordance with Council Decision [XXX]³ the Protocol to the Euro-Mediterranean Agreement establishing an association between the European Communities and their Member States, of the one part, and the Republic of Tunisia, of the other part, to take account of the accession of the Republic of Croatia to the European Union was signed on behalf of the Union and its Member States in [...] on [...], subject to its conclusion at a later date.

² OJ L 97, 30.3.1998 p. 2.

³ OJ L..., p.

(6) The Protocol should be approved on behalf of the Union and its Member States,
HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

The Protocol to the Euro-Mediterranean Agreement establishing an association between the European Communities and their Member States, of the one part, and the Republic of Tunisia, 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 States⁴.

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 7(1) of the Protocol, in order to express the consent of the Union and its Member States to be bound by the Protocol.

Article 3

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

Done at Brussels,

*For the Council
The President*

⁴ The text of the Protocol has been published in the [OJ reference], together with the Decision on its signing.