

Official Journal of the European Union

L 121



English edition

Legislation

Volume 64

8 April 2021

Contents

II *Non-legislative acts*

INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS

- ★ **Council Decision (EU) 2021/570 of 24 October 2019 on the signing, on behalf of the Union, and provisional application of the Protocol to the Euro-Mediterranean Interim Association Agreement on trade and cooperation between the European Community, of the one part, and the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) for the benefit of the Palestinian Authority of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, of the other part, on a Framework Agreement between the European Union and the Palestinian Authority of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip on the general principles for its participation in Union programmes** 1

- ★ **Protocol to the Euro-Mediterranean Interim Association Agreement on trade and cooperation between the European Community, of the one part, and the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) for the benefit of the Palestinian Authority of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, of the other part, on a Framework Agreement between the European Union and the Palestinian Authority of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip on the general principles for its participation in Union programmes** 3

EN

Acts whose titles are printed in light type are those relating to day-to-day management of agricultural matters, and are generally valid for a limited period.

The titles of all other acts are printed in bold type and preceded by an asterisk.

II

(Non-legislative acts)

INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS

COUNCIL DECISION (EU) 2021/570

of 24 October 2019

on the signing, on behalf of the Union, and provisional application of the Protocol to the Euro-Mediterranean Interim Association Agreement on trade and cooperation between the European Community, of the one part, and the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) for the benefit of the Palestinian Authority of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, of the other part, on a Framework Agreement between the European Union and the Palestinian Authority of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip on the general principles for its participation in Union programmes

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, and in particular Article 209 in conjunction with Article 218(5) and (7) thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the European Commission,

Whereas:

- (1) On 18 June 2007 the Council authorised the Commission to negotiate a Protocol to the Euro-Mediterranean Interim Association Agreement on trade and cooperation between the European Community, of the one part, and the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) for the benefit of the Palestinian Authority of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, of the other part, on a Framework Agreement between the European Union and the Palestinian Authority of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip on the general principles for its participation in Union programmes ('the Protocol').
- (2) The negotiations have been concluded.
- (3) The objective of the Protocol is to lay down the financial and technical rules enabling the Palestinian Authority of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip ('the Palestinian Authority') to participate in certain Union programmes. The horizontal framework established by the Protocol sets out principles for economic, financial and technical cooperation measures and allows the Palestinian Authority to receive technical assistance, in particular financial assistance, from the Union under those programmes. The framework applies only to those Union programmes for which the relevant constitutive legal acts provide for the possibility of the participation of the Palestinian Authority. The signing and provisional application of the Protocol therefore does not entail the exercise of powers, under the various sectoral policies pursued by the programmes, which are exercised when establishing the programmes.
- (4) The Protocol should be signed and applied on a provisional basis, pending the completion of the procedures necessary for its entry into force,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

The signing, on behalf of the Union, of the Protocol to the Euro-Mediterranean Interim Association Agreement on trade and cooperation between the European Community, of the one part, and the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) for the benefit of the Palestinian Authority of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, of the other part, on a Framework Agreement between the European Union and the Palestinian Authority of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip on the general principles for its participation in Union programmes is hereby authorised, subject to the conclusion of the said Protocol.

The text of the Protocol is attached to this Decision.

Article 2

The President of the Council is hereby authorised to designate the person(s) empowered to sign the Protocol on behalf of the Union.

Article 3

The Protocol shall be applied on a provisional basis, in accordance with Article 10 of the Protocol, as from the date of its signature, pending the procedures necessary for its entry into force ⁽¹⁾.

Article 4

The Commission is authorised to determine, on behalf of the Union, the specific terms and conditions applicable to the participation of the Palestinian Authority in any given Union programme, including the financial contribution to be paid. The Commission shall keep the relevant working party of the Council informed.

Article 5

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

Done at Brussels, 24 October 2019.

For the Council
The President
A.-K. PEKONEN

⁽¹⁾ The date of signature of the Protocol will be published in the *Official Journal of the European Union* by the General Secretariat of the Council.

PROTOCOL
TO THE EURO-MEDITERRANEAN INTERIM ASSOCIATION AGREEMENT ON TRADE AND
COOPERATION BETWEEN THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY, OF THE ONE PART, AND THE
PALESTINE LIBERATION ORGANIZATION (PLO) FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE PALESTINIAN
AUTHORITY OF THE WEST BANK AND THE GAZA STRIP, OF THE OTHER PART, ON A
FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE EUROPEAN UNION AND THE PALESTINIAN
AUTHORITY OF THE WEST BANK AND THE GAZA STRIP ON THE GENERAL PRINCIPLES FOR
ITS PARTICIPATION IN UNION PROGRAMMES

THE EUROPEAN UNION, hereinafter referred to as "the Union",

of the one part, and

the Palestinian Authority of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, hereinafter referred to as "the Palestinian Authority",

of the other part,

hereinafter referred to as "the Parties",

WHEREAS:

- (1) The Euro-Mediterranean Interim Association Agreement on trade and cooperation between the European Community, of the one part, and the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) for the benefit of the Palestinian Authority of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, of the other part ⁽¹⁾ (the "Interim Association Agreement") was signed on 24 February 1997 and entered into force on 1 July 1997.
- (2) The European Council of 17 and 18 June 2004 welcomed the European Commission's proposals for a European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) and endorsed the Council conclusions of 14 June 2004.
- (3) The Council has repeatedly adopted conclusions in favour of this policy.
- (4) On 5 March 2007 the Council expressed support for the general and global approach, outlined in the European Commission's communication of 4 December 2006, to enable ENP partners to participate in Community agencies and Community programmes on their merits and where the legal bases so allow.
- (5) The Palestinian Authority has expressed its wish to participate in a number of Union programmes.
- (6) The specific terms and conditions regarding the participation of the Palestinian Authority in each Union programme, in particular the financial contribution as well as the reporting and evaluation procedures, should be determined in a memorandum of understanding between the European Commission and the competent authorities of the Palestinian Authority,

HAVE AGREED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1

The Palestinian Authority shall be allowed to participate in all current and future Union programmes opened to the participation of the Palestinian Authority in accordance with the relevant legal acts adopting those programmes.

Article 2

The Palestinian Authority shall contribute financially to the general budget of the Union corresponding to the specific Union programmes in which it participates.

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 187, 16.7.1997, p. 3.

Article 3

Representatives of the Palestinian Authority shall be allowed to take part, as observers and for the points which concern the Palestinian Authority, in the management committees responsible for monitoring the Union programmes to which the Palestinian Authority contributes financially.

Article 4

Projects and initiatives submitted by participants from the Palestinian Authority shall, as far as possible, be subject to the same conditions, rules and procedures pertaining to the Union programmes concerned as applied to Member States.

Article 5

The specific terms and conditions regarding the participation of the Palestinian Authority in each Union programme, in particular the financial contributions to be paid by the Palestinian Authority as well as the reporting and evaluation procedures, shall be determined in a memorandum of understanding between the European Commission and the competent authorities of the Palestinian Authority on the basis of the criteria established by the Union programmes concerned.

If the Palestinian Authority applies for Union external assistance to participate in a given Union programme on the basis of Regulation (EU) No 232/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council ⁽²⁾ or pursuant to any similar regulation providing Union external assistance to the Palestinian Authority that is adopted in the future, the conditions governing the use of such assistance by the Palestinian Authority shall be determined in a financing agreement in accordance with Regulation (EU) No 232/2014.

Article 6

Each memorandum of understanding concluded pursuant to Article 5 shall stipulate, in accordance with Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 of the European Parliament and of the Council ⁽³⁾, that financial control, audits or other verifications, including administrative investigations, are to be carried out by, or under the authority of, the European Commission, the European Anti-Fraud Office and the Court of Auditors.

Detailed provisions shall be adopted on financial control and auditing, administrative investigations, recovery, financial penalties and other administrative sanctions, granting the European Commission, the European Anti-Fraud Office, and the Court of Auditors powers equivalent to their powers with regard to beneficiaries or contractors established in the Union.

Article 7

This Protocol shall apply for the period for which the Interim Association Agreement is in force.

This Protocol shall be signed and approved by the Parties in accordance with their respective procedures.

Either Party may denounce this Protocol by written notification to the other Party. This Protocol shall cease to apply six months after the date of such notification.

The termination of this Protocol following denunciation by any of the Parties shall have no influence on the checks and controls to be carried out, where necessary, under Articles 5 and 6.

⁽²⁾ Regulation (EU) No 232/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2014 establishing a European Neighbourhood Instrument (OJ L 77, 15.3.2014, p. 27).

⁽³⁾ Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 July 2018 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union, amending Regulations (EU) No 1296/2013, (EU) No 1301/2013, (EU) No 1303/2013, (EU) No 1304/2013, (EU) No 1309/2013, (EU) No 1316/2013, (EU) No 223/2014, (EU) No 283/2014, and Decision No 541/2014/EU and repealing Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 (OJ L 193, 30.7.2018, p. 1).

Article 8

No later than three years after the date of entry into force of this Protocol and every three years thereafter, the Parties may review the implementation of this Protocol on the basis of the actual participation of the Palestinian Authority in Union programmes.

Article 9

This Protocol shall apply, on the one hand, to the territories in which the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union is applied and under the conditions laid down in that Treaty, and, on the other hand, to the territory of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

Article 10

This Protocol shall enter into force on the first day of the month following the date on which the Parties notify each other through diplomatic channels of the completion of their procedures necessary for this purpose.

Pending its entry into force, the Parties agree to provisionally apply this Protocol from the date of its signature, subject to its conclusion at a later date.

Article 11

This Protocol shall form an integral part of the Interim Association Agreement.

Article 12

This Protocol shall be drawn up in duplicate in the Bulgarian, Croatian, Czech, Danish, Dutch, English, Estonian, Finnish, French, German, Greek, Hungarian, Italian, Latvian, Lithuanian, Maltese, Polish, Portuguese, Romanian, Slovak, Slovenian, Spanish, Swedish and Arabic languages, each of these texts being equally authentic.

Съставено в Брюксел на четвърти март две хиляди двадесет и първа година.

Hecho en Bruselas, el cuatro de marzo de dos mil veintiuno.

V Bruselu dne čtvrtého března dva tisíce dvacet jedna.

Udfærdiget i Bruxelles den fjerde marts to tusind og enogtyve.

Geschehen zu Brüssel am vierten März zweitausendeinundzwanzig.

Kahe tuhande kahekümne esimese aasta märtsikuu neljandal päeval Brüsselis.

Έγινε στις Βρυξέλλες, στις τέσσερις Μαρτίου δύο χιλιάδες είκοσι ένα.

Done at Brussels on the fourth day of March in the year two thousand and twenty one.

Fait à Bruxelles, le quatre mars deux mille vingt et un.

Sastavljeno u Bruxellesu četvrtog ožujka godine dvije tisuće dvadeset prve.

Fatto a Bruxelles, addì quattro marzo duemilaventuno.

Briselē, divi tūkstoši divdesmit pirmā gada ceturtajā martā.

Priimta du tūkstančiai dvidešimt pirmų metų kovo ketvirtą dieną Briuselyje.

Kelt Brüsszelben, a kétezer-huszonegyedik év március havának negyedik napján.

Magħmul fi Brussell, fir-raba' jum ta' Marzu fis-sena elfejn u wiehed u ghoxrin.

Gedaan te Brussel, vier maart tweeduizend eenentwintig.

Sporządzono w Brukseli dnia czwartego marca roku dwa tysiące dwudziestego pierwszego.

Feito em Bruxelas, em quatro de março de dois mil e vinte e um.

Întocmit la Bruxelles la patru martie două mii douăzeci și unu.

V Bruseli štvrtého marca dvetisícdvadsaťjeden.

V Bruslju, dne četrtega marca leta dva tisoč enainvajset.

Tehty Brysselissä neljäntenä päivänä maaliskuuta vuonna kaksituhattakaksikymmentäyksi.

Som skedde i Bryssel den fjärde mars år tjugohundratjugoett.

حرر في بروكسل في الرابع من آذار من سنة ألفين و واحد و عشرين

За Европейския съюз
 Por la Unión Europea
 Za Evropskou unii
 For Den Europæiske Union
 Für die Europäische Union
 Euroopa Liidu nimel
 Για την Ευρωπαϊκή Ένωση
 For the European Union
 Pour l'Union européenne
 Za Europejską uniję
 Per l'Unione europea
 Eiropas Savienības vārdā –
 Europos Sąjungos vardu
 Az Európai Unió részéről
 Għall-Unjoni Ewropea
 Voor de Europese Unie
 W imieniu Unii Europejskiej
 Pela União Europeia
 Pentru Uniunea Europeană
 Za Európsku úniu
 Za Evropsko unijo
 Euroopan unionin puolesta
 För Europeiska unionen

Nuno Brito


A عن السلطة الفلسطينية

За Палестинската власт
 Por la Autoridad Palestina
 Za palestinskou samosprávu
 For Den Palestnensiske Myndighed
 Im Namen der Palästinensischen Behörde
 Palestiina omavalitsuse nimel
 Για την Παλαιστινιακή Αρχή
 For the Palestinian Authority
 Pour l'Autorité palestinienne
 Za Palestinsku samoupravu
 Per l'Autorità palestinese
 Palestīniešu pārvaldes vārdā –
 Palestinos Administracijos vardu
 A Palesztin Nemzeti Hatóság részéről
 Għall-Awtorità Palestinjana
 Voor de Palestijnse Autoriteit
 W imieniu Palestyńskiej Władzy Narodowej
 Pela Autoridade Palestiniana
 Pentru Autoritatea Palestiniană
 Za palestínske orgány
 Za Palestinsko upravo
 Palestiinalaishallinnon puolesta
 För den palestinska myndigheten

Ambassador ALFARRA


عن الاتحاد الأوروبي

ISSN 1977-0677 (electronic edition)
ISSN 1725-2555 (paper edition)



Publications Office
of the European Union
L-2985 Luxembourg
LUXEMBOURG

EN