International exhibitions, 1928 Paris Convention: accession of Member States to the Convention

2010/0015(NLE) - 05/02/2010 - Preparatory document

PURPOSE: to authorise Member States to accede to the Convention relating to international exhibitions signed at Paris on 22 November 1928 and supplemented by the Protocols of 10 May 1948, 16 November 1966, 30 November 1972 and the Amendment of 24 June 1982 and the Amendment of 31 May 1988 (‘Paris Convention’).

PROPOSED ACT: Council Decision.

CONTENT: this proposal authorises Member States to accede, for the parts falling under European Union competence, to the Paris Convention.

The function of the Paris Convention is to regulate the frequency, quality and procedures of international exhibitions falling within its remit.

Article 16 and the Annex on "Customs Regulations for the importation of articles by the participants in international exhibitions" of the Paris Convention require countries organising exhibitions to allow for temporary admission of objects by the participants in international exhibitions. Granting temporary admission is regulated in Articles 137 to 144 of the Community Customs Code, Council Regulation (EEC) 2913/92, implemented with regard to exhibitions by Article 576 of the Implementing rules to the Community Customs Code, Commission Regulation (EEC) 2454/93.

The regime of temporary admission as set out in the European Union customs legislation is fully compatible with the Paris Convention.

The European Union customs legislation is part of the Commercial Policy set out in Article 207 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union. Article 207 renders national measures, including the conclusion of international agreements, permissible only if they are specifically authorized by the Union.

The European Union itself cannot accede to the Paris Convention, as only sovereign States can be parties thereto.

The Republic of Latvia has expressed its wish to accede to the Convention.

Insofar as the Paris Convention regulates aspects falling within the European Union customs legislation, a Member State wishing to accede to that Convention therefore requires a Union authorisation.

So far 24 Member States have acceded to the Paris Convention.