EC/Korea Cooperation Ageement on a Civil Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS): accession of Bulgaria, Croatia and Romania to the EU. Protocol

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PURPOSE: to conclude, on behalf of the European Union and its Member States, of the Protocol to the Cooperation Agreement on a Civil Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS) between the European Community and its Member States, of the one part, and Korea, of the other part, to take account of the accession of Bulgaria, Croatia and Romania to the European Union.

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: the Cooperation Agreement on a Civil Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS) between the EU and Korea, was signed on 9 September 2006 and entered into force on 1 July 2016.

Bulgaria and Romania became Member States of the Union on 1 January 2007 and Croatia on 1 July 2013.

In accordance with Article 6(2) of the Acts of Accession of Bulgaria, Romania, and of Croatia, respectively, accession to the Cooperation Agreement on a Civil Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS) between the European Community and its Member States, of the one part, and Korea, of the other part is to be agreed by means of a Protocol to the Agreement. A simplified procedure is to apply to such accession, whereby a protocol is to be concluded by the Council, acting unanimously on behalf of the Member States, and by the third countries concerned.

On 23 October 2006 and on 14 September 2012, the Council authorised the Commission to open negotiations with the third countries concerned in order to conclude protocols to international agreements concluded by the European Union and its Member States. The negotiations with Korea were successfully concluded.

Following a Council Decision to sign a Protocol to the Agreement to take account of the accession of these countries to the European Union, the Protocol was signed.

CONTENT: following the signature of the Protocol, the Commission proposes to the Council to authorise the conclusion, on behalf of the European Union and its Member States, of a Protocol to the Cooperation Agreement on a Civil Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS) between the European Community and its Member States, of the one part, and the Republic of Korea, of the other part, the to take account of the accession of the Republic of Bulgaria, the Republic of Croatia and Romania to the EU.

The proposed Protocol makes Bulgaria, Republic of Croatia and Romania contracting parties to the Agreement and commits the EU to providing an authentic version of the Agreement in Bulgarian, Croatia and Romanian.