EC/Republic of Korea framework agreement: framework agreement for trade and cooperation following the 2004 enlargement

2005/0121(NLE) - 28/06/2005 - Legislative proposal

PURPOSE : proposals for the signature and conclusion of a Protocol to the Framework Agreement for Trade and Cooperation between the EC and its Member States, on the one part, and the Republic of Korea, of the other part, to take account of accession of the ten new Member States in 2004.

PROPOSED ACT : Council Decision.

CONTENT : according to the terms of Article 6(2) of the Act of Accession of the new Member States to the EU, the accession of the new Member States to the Framework Agreement for Trade and Cooperation with the Republic of Korea shall be agreed by the conclusion of a protocol to this agreement. The Article provides for a simplified procedure, as this protocol is to be concluded by the Council of the European Union, acting unanimously on behalf of the Member States, and the third country concerned. This procedure is without prejudice to the Community's own competences. On 3 December 2004, the Council approved a mandate for the Commission to negotiate such a protocol with the Republic of Korea. These negotiations have since been completed to the satisfaction of the Commission. The text of the protocol was initialled by the Commission and the Korean authorities on 14 April 2005.

The text of the protocol negotiated with Korea is attached to the proposals. The most important aspects of the protocol are provision for the accession of the new Member States to the EU-Korea Framework Agreement for Trade and Cooperation and inclusion of the new official languages of the EU.