Basic information

2015/0029(NLE) NLE - Non-legislative enactments	Procedure completed
Marrakesh Agreement establishing the World Trade Organization (WTO): Agreement on Trade Facilitation. Protocol See also 2015/2067(INI) **Subject** 6.20.01 Agreements and relations in the context of the World Trade Organization (WTO)	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
INTA International Trade	ZALBA BIDEGAIN Pablo (PPE)	24/02/2015
	Shadow rapporteur DANTI Nicola (S&D) MCCLARKIN Emma (ECR) DE SARNEZ Marielle (ALDE) BUCHNER Klaus (Verts /ALE)	

Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
AFET Foreign Affairs	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
DEVE Development	FRUNZULICĂ Doru-Claudian (S&D)	01/04/2015

Council of the European Union

European Commission

Commission DG	Commissioner
Trade and Economic Security	MALMSTRÖM Cecilia

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
06/02/2015	Preparatory document	COM(2015)0050	Summary
06/03/2015	Legislative proposal published	06040/2015	Summary
25/03/2015	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
14/07/2015	Vote in committee		
22/07/2015	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading	A8-0237/2015	Summary
09/09/2015	Decision by Parliament	T8-0303/2015	Summary
09/09/2015	Results of vote in Parliament		
01/10/2015	Act adopted by Council after consultation of Parliament		
01/10/2015	End of procedure in Parliament		
30/10/2015	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2015/0029(NLE)
Procedure type	NLE - Non-legislative enactments
Procedure subtype	Consent by Parliament
Amendments and repeals	See also 2015/2067(INI)
Legal basis	Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union TFEU 207-p4 Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union TFEU 218-p6a
Other legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 165
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	INTA/8/02797

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee draft report		PE557.162	01/06/2015	
Committee opinion	DEVE	PE552.077	25/06/2015	
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading		A8-0237/2015	22/07/2015	Summary
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading		T8-0303/2015	09/09/2015	Summary

Council of the EU

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Legislative proposal	06040/2015	06/03/2015	Summary
Document attached to the procedure	06041/2015	06/03/2015	

Document attached to the procedure	06043/2015	06/03/2015	

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Preparatory document	COM(2015)0050	06/02/2015	Summary

Additional information		
Source	**Document**	**Date**
European Commission	EUR-Lex	

Final act	
Decision 2015/1947 OJ L 284 30.10.2015, p. 0001	Summary

Marrakesh Agreement establishing the World Trade Organization (WTO): Agreement on Trade Facilitation. Protocol

2015/0029(NLE) - 22/07/2015 - Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading

The Committee on International Trade adopted the report by Pablo ZALBA BIDEGAIN (EPP, ES) on the draft Council decision on the conclusion, on behalf of the European Union, of the Protocol Amending the Marrakesh Agreement Establishing the World Trade Organization.

The committee recommended that the European Parliament **give its consent** to the conclusion of the Agreement.

The trade facilitation agreement (TFA) which was concluded at the 9th WTO Ministerial Conference in December 2013 is the first multilateral agreement since the WTO was established in 1995. The issue first appeared on the WTO agenda during the Ministerial in Singapore in 1996 and subsequently found its way into the Doha Declaration where WTO members committed to concluding a deal on this issue.

The Agreement demonstrates the ability to be innovative in recognising differences in implementation capacity across nations. In particular, by:

- allowing developing and least developed countries to categorise commitments and determine the timing of their implementation;
- linking implementation of some disciplines to the provision of technical assistance;
- calling for joint action by donor countries, development assistance providers and developing and least developed country WTO members to assist the latter in implementing some provisions of the agreement;
- incorporating an Expert Group to assess the situation in a Member once notified implementation periods have expired, and the use of the TFA Committee as a forum for the exchange of experiences and deliberation.

The TFA will require increased transparency and greater cooperation between customs authorities. It focuses on cooperation aimed at achieving a set of good practices that governments can support and comply with.

In order for the TFA to enter into force, it needs to be ratified by two thirds of the 160 WTO members who agreed it at the 9th Ministerial Conference.

Marrakesh Agreement establishing the World Trade Organization (WTO): Agreement on Trade Facilitation. Protocol

2015/0029(NLE) - 09/09/2015 - Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading

The European Parliament adopted by 569 votes to 99, with 27 abstentions, a legislative resolution on the draft Council decision on the conclusion, on behalf of the European Union, of the Protocol Amending the Marrakesh Agreement Establishing the World Trade Organization.

In line with the Committee on International Trade, Parliament **gave its consent to the conclusion of the Agreement**.

The trade facilitation agreement (TFA) which was concluded at the 9th WTO Ministerial Conference in December 2013 is the first multilateral agreement since the WTO was established in 1995. The issue first appeared on the WTO agenda during the Ministerial in Singapore in 1996 and subsequently found its way into the Doha Declaration where WTO members committed to concluding a deal on this issue.

The agreement demonstrates the ability to be innovative in recognising differences in implementation capacity across nations by calling on developing and least developed countries to determine when they will apply specific provisions of the agreement and by linking implementation of some disciplines to the delivery of assistance from developed nations.

The TFA will require increased transparency and greater cooperation between customs authorities. It focuses on cooperation aimed at achieving a set of good practices that governments can support and comply with.

In order for the TFA to enter into force, it needs to be ratified by two thirds of the 160 WTO members who agreed it at the 9th Ministerial Conference.

Marrakesh Agreement establishing the World Trade Organization (WTO): Agreement on Trade Facilitation. Protocol

2015/0029(NLE) - 06/03/2015 - Legislative proposal

PURPOSE: to conclude, on behalf of the European Union, of the protocol amending the Marrakesh agreement establishing the World Trade Organization (WTO).

PROPOSED ACT: Council Decision.

ROLE OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT: Council may adopt the act only if Parliament has given its consent to the act.

CONTENT: it is proposed that the **protocol amending the Marrakesh agreement establishing the World Trade Organization** be approved on behalf of the European Union. This protocol was adopted by the WTO's General Council at its meeting on 27 November 2014.

The 9th WTO Ministerial Conference held in Bali on 3-6 December 2013 adopted the Ministerial Decision on Trade Facilitation, which concluded negotiations on the Agreement on Trade Facilitation subject to the legal review of the text.

The protocol includes the Agreement on Trade facilitation and the commitments of developing countries will become an integral part of the Agreement.

For details of the main provisions of this Agreement, *please refer to the summary of the Commission's initial legislative proposal dated 6.2.2015*.

Marrakesh Agreement establishing the World Trade Organization (WTO): Agreement on Trade Facilitation. Protocol

2015/0029(NLE) - 06/02/2015 - Preparatory document

PURPOSE: to conclude, on behalf of the European Union, of the protocol amending the Marrakesh agreement establishing the World Trade Organization (WTO).

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 World Trade Organization (WTO) launched the Doha Round of trade negotiations, known as the Doha Development Agenda in November 2001.

The negotiations on trade facilitation were launched in July 2004, based on a commitment to clarify and improve several articles of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade 1994 (GATT 1994): such as those concerning: (i) freedom of transit); (ii) fees and formalities connected with importation and exportation); (iii) publication and administration of trade regulations.

Moreover, the mandate referred to provisions for effective cooperation between customs or any other appropriate authorities on trade facilitation and customs compliance issues.

The 9th WTO Ministerial Conference held in Bali on 3-6 December 2013 adopted the Ministerial Decision on Trade Facilitation, which concluded negotiations on the Agreement on Trade Facilitation subject to the legal review of the text.

At its meeting on 26 November 2014, the WTO's General Council adopted the Protocol amending the Marrakesh Agreement establishing the World Trade Organisation and opened it for acceptance by the WTO Members. The Protocol should now be concluded on behalf of the Union.

CONTENT: under this proposal, the Council is invited to conclude the protocol amending the Marrakesh agreement establishing the World Trade Organization.

The protocol includes the Agreement on Trade facilitation and the commitments will become an integral part of the Agreement.

The Agreement contains a set of measures designed to improve the cross-border movement of goods by improving transparency, streamlining customs procedures and eliminating red tape. For developing countries, it also contains innovative flexibilities which may become standard in future rules type agreements.

The Agreement is divided into two sections:

- the first contains provisions for **expediting the movement, release and clearance of goods**;
- the second contains **special and differential treatment provisions for developing and least-developed countries** aimed at helping them implement the provisions of the Agreement.

The OECD Trade Facilitation Indicators estimate that comprehensive implementation of all measures of the Agreement on Trade Facilitation would reduce total trade costs by 10% in developed countries and by 13-15.5% in developing countries.

Marrakesh Agreement establishing the World Trade Organization (WTO): Agreement on Trade Facilitation. Protocol

2015/0029(NLE) - 01/10/2015 - Final act

PURPOSE: to conclude, on behalf of the European Union, the protocol amending the Marrakesh agreement establishing the World Trade Organization (WTO).

NON-LEGISLATIVE ACT: Council Decision (EU) 2015/1947 on the conclusion, on behalf of the European Union, of the Protocol Amending the Marrakesh Agreement establishing the World Trade Organisation.

CONTENT: under this Decision, the Council approved on behalf of the European Union, the Protocol Amending the Marrakesh Agreement Establishing the World Trade Organisation.

The Ninth WTO Ministerial Conference held in Bali on 3-6 December 2013 adopted the Ministerial Decision on Trade Facilitation, which concluded negotiations on the Agreement on Trade Facilitation subject to the legal review of the text.

At its meeting on 27 November 2014, the WTO's General Council adopted the Protocol amending the Marrakesh Agreement establishing the World Trade Organisation and opened it for acceptance by WTO Members.

The Protocol includes the Agreement on Trade Facilitation and the commitments of developing countries that are incorporated as an Annex to that Agreement.

The Agreement contains a set of measures designed to improve the cross-border movement of goods by improving transparency, streamlining customs procedures and eliminating red tape. For developing countries, it also contains innovative flexibilities which may become standard in future rules type agreements.

The Agreement is divided into two sections:

- the first contains provisions for **expediting the movement, release and clearance of goods**;
- the second contains special and **differential treatment provisions for developing and least-developed countries** aimed at helping them implement the provisions of the Agreement.

ENTRY INTO FORCE: 1.10.2015.

Marrakesh Agreement establishing the World Trade Organization (WTO): Agreement on Trade Facilitation. Protocol

2015/0029(NLE) - 06/02/2015

PURPOSE: to conclude, on behalf of the European Union, of the protocol amending the Marrakesh agreement establishing the World Trade Organization (WTO).

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 World Trade Organization (WTO) launched the Doha Round of trade negotiations, known as the Doha Development Agenda in November 2001.

The negotiations on trade facilitation were launched in July 2004, based on a commitment to clarify and improve several articles of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade 1994 (GATT 1994): such as those concerning: (i) freedom of transit); (ii) fees and formalities connected with importation and exportation); (iii) publication and administration of trade regulations.

Moreover, the mandate referred to provisions for effective cooperation between customs or any other appropriate authorities on trade facilitation and customs compliance issues.

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At its meeting on 26 November 2014, the WTO's General Council adopted the Protocol amending the Marrakesh Agreement establishing the World Trade Organisation and opened it for acceptance by the WTO Members. The Protocol should now be concluded on behalf of the Union.

CONTENT: under this proposal, the Council is invited to conclude the protocol amending the Marrakesh agreement establishing the World Trade Organization.

The protocol includes the Agreement on Trade facilitation and the commitments will become an integral part of the Agreement.

The Agreement contains a set of measures designed to improve the cross-border movement of goods by improving transparency, streamlining customs procedures and eliminating red tape. For developing countries, it also contains innovative flexibilities which may become standard in future rules type agreements.

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- the first contains provisions for **expediting the movement, release and clearance of goods**;
- the second contains **special and differential treatment provisions for developing and least-developed countries** aimed at helping them implement the provisions of the Agreement.

The OECD Trade Facilitation Indicators estimate that comprehensive implementation of all measures of the Agreement on Trade Facilitation would reduce total trade costs by 10% in developed countries and by 13-15.5% in developing countries.