

## Basic information

2019/0099(NLE)

NLE - Non-legislative enactments

EC/Pacific States Interim Partnership Agreement: accession of Solomon Islands

### Subject

3.15.15.06 Fisheries agreements with Pacific countries  
6.20.05 Multilateral and plurilateral economic and trade agreements and relations  
6.40.06 Relations with ACP countries, conventions and generalities

### Geographical area

Solomon Islands

Procedure completed

## Key players

European Parliament

### Committee responsible

INTA

International Trade

### Rapporteur

LANGE Bernd (S&D)

### Appointed

23/09/2019

### Shadow rapporteur

MCALLISTER David (EPP)

ČÍŽ Miroslav (S&D)

LØKKEGAARD Morten (Renew)

FRAGKOS Emmanouil (ECR)

FLANAGAN Luke Ming (GUE/NGL)

### Former committee responsible

INTA

International Trade

### Former rapporteur

### Appointed

### Committee for opinion

DEVE

Development

### Rapporteur for opinion

TOBÉ Tomas (EPP)

### Appointed



22/10/2019

PECH

Fisheries

The committee decided not to give an opinion.

	<table border="1"> <tr> <th>Former committee for opinion</th> <th>Former rapporteur for opinion</th> <th>Appointed</th> </tr> <tr> <td> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>DEVE</td> <td>Development</td> </tr> <tr> <td>PECH</td> <td>Fisheries</td> </tr> </table> </td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	Former committee for opinion	Former rapporteur for opinion	Appointed	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>DEVE</td> <td>Development</td> </tr> <tr> <td>PECH</td> <td>Fisheries</td> </tr> </table>	DEVE	Development	PECH	Fisheries		
Former committee for opinion	Former rapporteur for opinion	Appointed									
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Council of the European Union											
European Commission	<table border="1"> <tr> <th>Commission DG</th> <th>Commissioner</th> </tr> <tr> <td>Trade and Economic Security</td> <td>MALMSTRÖM Cecilia</td> </tr> </table>	Commission DG	Commissioner	Trade and Economic Security	MALMSTRÖM Cecilia						
Commission DG	Commissioner										
Trade and Economic Security	MALMSTRÖM Cecilia										

Key events			
Date	Event	Reference	Summary
29/04/2019	Preparatory document	COM(2019)0204 	
04/06/2019	Legislative proposal published	09405/2019	Summary
15/07/2019	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
03/12/2019	Vote in committee		
09/12/2019	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading	A9-0050/2019	Summary
17/12/2019	Decision by Parliament	T9-0089/2019	Summary
17/12/2019	Results of vote in Parliament		
12/02/2020	Act adopted by Council after consultation of Parliament		
05/03/2020	End of procedure in Parliament		
20/03/2020	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2019/0099(NLE)
Procedure type	NLE - Non-legislative enactments
Procedure subtype	Consent by Parliament
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	INTA/9/00467

Documentation gateway				
European Parliament				
Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary

Committee draft report		<a href="#">PE642.904</a>	29/10/2019	
Amendments tabled in committee		<a href="#">PE643.212</a>	15/11/2019	
Committee opinion	<span style="border: 1px solid red; padding: 2px;">DEVE</span>	<a href="#">PE642.995</a>	03/12/2019	
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading		<a href="#">A9-0050/2019</a>	09/12/2019	<a href="#">Summary</a>
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading		<a href="#">T9-0089/2019</a>	17/12/2019	<a href="#">Summary</a>

#### Council of the EU

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Legislative proposal	<a href="#">09405/2019</a>	04/06/2019	<a href="#">Summary</a>

#### European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Preparatory document	<a href="#">COM(2019)0204</a> 	29/04/2019	<a href="#">Summary</a>

#### Additional information

Source	Document	Date
European Commission	<a href="#">EUR-Lex</a>	

#### Final act

<a href="#">Decision 2020/0409</a> <a href="#">OJ L 085 20.03.2020, p. 0001</a>	<a href="#">Summary</a>
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## EC/Pacific States Interim Partnership Agreement: accession of Solomon Islands

2019/0099(NLE) - 04/06/2019 - Legislative proposal

**PURPOSE:** to approve, on behalf of the European Union, Solomon Islands' accession to the Interim Partnership Agreement between the European Union, of the one part, and the Pacific States, of the other part.

**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:** on 12 June 2002, the Council authorised the Commission to open negotiations for Economic Partnership Agreements with the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States.

The Interim Partnership Agreement between the European Community, of the one part, and the Pacific States, of the other part, which establishes a framework for an Economic Partnership Agreement, was signed in London on 30 July 2009. The Interim Partnership Agreement has been provisionally applied by Papua New Guinea, Fiji and Samoa since 20 December 2009, 28 July 2014 and 31 December 2018, respectively. The Agreement lays down the provisions regarding the accession of other Pacific Island States.

In accordance with the Agreement, Solomon Islands submitted to the Council on 4 June 2018 an application for membership and an offer of market access. The Commission examined Solomon Islands' offer and, after modifications, has found it acceptable. Accordingly, the Commission concluded negotiations with Solomon Islands on 23 October 2018.

**CONTENT:** the draft Council decision concerns the approval, on behalf of the Union, of Solomon Islands' accession to the Interim Partnership Agreement between the European Union, of the one part, and the Pacific States, of the other part, subject to the deposit of the Act of Accession by Solomon Islands.

The EPA is a development-oriented trade agreement, which offers asymmetric market access to Solomon Islands and allows it to shield sensitive sectors from liberalisation, while providing a large number of safeguards and a clause for infant industry protection. It further contains provisions on the rules of origin that facilitate Solomon Islands' exports into the EU.

Over the course of its implementation, the EPA will largely relieve EU exporters of industrial products to Solomon Islands from paying customs duties. Indeed, the EPA covers 90.3% of tariff lines, or 83% of the EU's export volume over 15 years.

The Agreement also contains provisions on sustainable development.

In accordance with the Agreement, the Union and Solomon Islands are to apply the Agreement on a provisional basis ten days after they have notified each other in writing that the necessary procedures have been completed.

## **EC/Pacific States Interim Partnership Agreement: accession of Solomon Islands**

2019/0099(NLE) - 09/12/2019 - Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading

The Committee on International Trade adopted the report by André ROUGÉ (ID, FR) on the draft Council decision on the accession of Solomon Islands to the Interim Partnership Agreement between the European Community, of the one part, and the Pacific States, of the other part.

The committee recommended that the European Parliament give its consent to Solomon Islands' accession to the agreement.

The draft Council Decision implements the Partnership Agreement between the members of the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Group of States, of the one part, and the European Community and its Member States, of the other part, signed in Cotonou on 23 June 2000.

On 30 July 2009, the EU signed the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) between the European Community, on the one hand, and the Pacific States, on the other. The EPA has been provisionally applied by the Independent State of Papua New Guinea, the Republic of Fiji and the Independent State of Samoa since 20 December 2009, 28 July 2014 and 31 December 2018, respectively. It provides for the accession of other Pacific Island States.

The EPA is a development-oriented trade agreement, which offers asymmetric market access to Solomon Islands and allows it to shield sensitive sectors from liberalisation, while providing a large number of safeguards and a clause for infant industry protection. It further contains provisions on the rules of origin that facilitate Solomon Islands' exports into the EU and provisions on sustainable development.

## **EC/Pacific States Interim Partnership Agreement: accession of Solomon Islands**

2019/0099(NLE) - 29/04/2019

**PURPOSE:** to approve, on behalf of the European Union, the accession of Solomon Islands to the Interim Partnership Agreement between the European Community, of the one part, and the Pacific States, of the other part.

**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:** on 12 June 2002, the Council authorised the Commission to open negotiations for Economic Partnership Agreements with the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States.

On 30 July 2009, the Union signed the Interim Partnership Agreement between the European Community, of the one part, and the Pacific States, of the other part, which establishes a framework for an Economic Partnership Agreement. The Interim Partnership Agreement has been provisionally applied by the Independent State of Papua New Guinea, the Republic of the Fiji Islands and the Independent State of Samoa since 20 December 2009, 28 July 2014 and 31 December 2018, respectively.

Accordingly, on 4 June 2018, Solomon Islands submitted a request to the Council together with a market access offer to accede to the EPA. The Commission assessed the offer and, after modifications, found it to be acceptable. Accordingly, it concluded negotiations on behalf of the Union on 23 October 2018. The European Parliament was informed via its Committee on International Trade (INTA).

CONTENT: the Commission proposes that the Council decide to approve, on behalf of the Union, the accession of Solomon Islands to the Interim Partnership Agreement between the European Union, of the one part, and the Pacific States, of the other part, subject to Solomon Islands' deposit of the act of accession.

The accession of Solomon Islands to the EPA between the EU, Fiji, Papua New Guinea and Samoa, which is an asymmetric and WTO-compatible trade agreement, reinforces the legal framework of the EU trade relations with partner countries and facilitates reciprocal trade. It also incorporates Solomon Islands into the regime of joint rules and institutions established by the EPA.

The Economic Partnership Agreement contains provisions on Sustainable Development, whereby the Parties reaffirm that the objective of sustainable development shall be an integral part of the provisions of this Agreement, consistent with the overarching objectives and principles set out in Cotonou Agreement, and especially the general commitment to reduce and eventually eradicate poverty in a way that is consistent with the objectives of sustainable development. The EPA is a development-oriented trade agreement, which offers asymmetric market access to Solomon Islands and allows it to shield sensitive sectors from liberalisation, while providing a large number of safeguards and a clause for infant industry protection. It further contains provisions on the rules of origin that facilitate Solomon Islands' exports into the EU.

Over the course of its implementation, the EPA will largely relieve EU exporters of industrial products to Solomon Islands from paying customs duties. The EPA concerns 90.3% of tariff lines, corresponding to 83% in volume of EU exports over 15 years. Solomon Islands will benefit from maintaining their duty-free quota-free market access into the EU market.

Solomon Islands will take part in the Trade Committee which shall deal with all matters necessary for the implementation of the Agreement, including monitoring and review its implementation.

BUDGETARY IMPLICATIONS: Solomon Islands is projected to graduate from the Least Developed Countries category in 2021; as such it will continue to benefit from the 'Everything But Arms' initiative which offers exports duty-free quota-free market access into the EU for a transitional period of three years thereafter. There will be no budgetary implications as the accession to the Agreement will continue Solomon Islands' market access into the EU on the same terms.

## **EC/Pacific States Interim Partnership Agreement: accession of Solomon Islands**

2019/0099(NLE) - 20/03/2020 - Final act

PURPOSE: accession of Solomon Islands to the Interim Partnership Agreement between the European Community, of the one part, and the Pacific States, of the other part.

NON-LEGISLATIVE ACT: Council Decision (EU) 2020/409 on the accession of Solomon Islands to the Interim Partnership Agreement between the European Community, of the one part, and the Pacific States, of the other part.

CONTENT: the Council decided to approve, on behalf of the Union, the accession of Solomon Islands to the Interim Partnership Agreement between the European Community, of the one part, and the Pacific States, of the other part, subject to the deposit of the Act of Accession by Solomon Islands in accordance with the Interim Partnership Agreement.

According to Article 76(3) of the Interim Partnership Agreement, the Union and Solomon Islands are to apply the Interim Partnership Agreement on a provisional basis 10 days after they have notified each other in writing that the procedures necessary for that purpose have been completed.

It is recalled that the Interim Partnership Agreement between the European Community, of the one part, and the Pacific States, of the other part, establishing a framework for an Economic Partnership Agreement, was signed in London on 30 July 2009. The Interim Partnership Agreement has been provisionally applied by Papua New Guinea, Fiji and Samoa since 20 December 2009, 28 July 2014 and 31 December 2018 respectively.

On 4 June 2018, Solomon Islands submitted to the Council a request for accession and a market access offer. The Commission has assessed Solomon Islands' offer and, after amendments, found it acceptable. Accordingly, the Commission concluded negotiations with Solomon Islands on 23 October 2018.

The EPA is a development-oriented trade agreement, which offers asymmetric market access to Solomon Islands and allows it to shield sensitive sectors from liberalisation, while providing a large number of safeguards and a clause for infant industry protection. It further contains provisions on the rules of origin that facilitate Solomon Islands' exports into the EU and provisions on sustainable development.

Over the course of its implementation, the EPA will largely relieve EU exporters of industrial products to Solomon Islands from paying customs duties. Indeed, the EPA covers 90.3% of the tariff lines or 83% of the volume of EU exports over 15 years. The agreement also contains provisions on sustainable development.

ENTRY INTO FORCE: 17.2.2020.

## **EC/Pacific States Interim Partnership Agreement: accession of Solomon Islands**

2019/0099(NLE) - 17/12/2019 - Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading

The European Parliament adopted by 534 votes to 45, with 13 abstentions, a legislative resolution on the draft Council decision on the accession of Solomon Islands to the Interim Partnership Agreement between the European Community, of the one part, and the Pacific States, of the other part.

Following the recommendation of its Committee on International Trade, the European Parliament gave its consent to the accession of Solomon Islands to the Agreement.

The EPA is a development-oriented trade agreement, which offers asymmetric market access to Solomon Islands and allows it to shield sensitive sectors from liberalisation, while providing a large number of safeguards and a clause for infant industry protection. It further contains provisions on the rules of origin that facilitate Solomon Islands' exports into the EU and provisions on sustainable development.