Basic information

2024/0010(NLE) NLE - Non-legislative enactments	Procedure completed, awaiting publication in Official Journal
EC/Pacific States Interim Partnership Agreement: accession of Niue **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** Niue	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
INTA International Trade	JOŃSKI Dariusz (EPP)	30/09/2024
	Shadow rapporteur ASSIS Francisco (S&D) FRAGKOS Emmanouil (ECR) COWEN Barry (Renew) KENNES Rudi (The Left) AUST René (ESN)	

Former committee responsible	Former rapporteur	Appointed
INTA International Trade		

Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
DEVE Development	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
PECH Fisheries	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	

Former committee for opinion	Former rapporteur for opinion	Appointed

	DEVE Development		
	PECH Fisheries	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
Council of the European Union			
European Commission	**Commission DG**	**Commissioner**	
	Trade and Economic Security	DOMBROVSKIS Valdis	

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
24/01/2024	Preparatory document	COM(2024)0020	Summary
19/06/2024	Legislative proposal published	07920/2024	Summary
16/09/2024	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
03/12/2024	Vote in committee		
05/12/2024	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading	A10-0024/2024	
18/12/2024	Decision by Parliament	T10-0070/2024	Summary
18/12/2024	Results of vote in Parliament		
27/01/2025	Act adopted by Council after consultation of Parliament		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2024/0010(NLE)
Procedure type	NLE - Non-legislative enactments
Procedure subtype	Consent by Parliament
Legal basis	Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union TFEU 218-p6a Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union TFEU 207-p4
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed, awaiting publication in Official Journal
Committee dossier	INTA/10/00327

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee draft report		PE765.180	14/11/2024	

Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading		A10-0024/2024	05/12/2024	
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading		T10-0070/2024	18/12/2024	Summary

Council of the EU

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Legislative proposal	07920/2024	19/06/2024	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Preparatory document	COM(2024)0020	24/01/2024	Summary

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

EC/Pacific States Interim Partnership Agreement: accession of Niue

2024/0010(NLE) - 18/12/2024 - Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading

The European Parliament adopted by 543 votes to 77, with 31 abstentions, a legislative resolution on the draft Council decision on the accession of Niue to the Interim Partnership Agreement between the European Community, of the one part, and the Pacific States, of the other part.

Parliament **gave its consent** to the accession of Niue to the Agreement.

Niue benefits from standard Generalised Scheme of Preferences (GSP) arrangement that grants it duty elimination or reductions for about 66% of all EU tariff lines. In order to benefit from full duty-free-quota-free access to the EU market and the wider opportunities of the Agreement, Niue would need to accede to the interim EPA between the EU and the Pacific States.

The interim EPA is a development-oriented trade agreement, which offers asymmetric market access to Niue and allows it to shield sensitive sectors from liberalisation, while providing a large number of safeguards and a clause for infant industry protection.

In particular, the interim EPA:

- contains the rules of origin that facilitate Niue’s exports into the EU;

- establishes the conditions for EU economic operators to take full advantage of the opportunities between the respective economies;

- establishes a set of disciplines in the areas of sustainable development; Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT); and Sanitary and Phyto-Sanitary measures (SPS), among others.

EC/Pacific States Interim Partnership Agreement: accession of Niue

2024/0010(NLE) - 19/06/2024 - Legislative proposal

PURPOSE: to approve, on behalf of the European Union, the accession of Niue 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. 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 the Independent State of Papua New Guinea and the Republic of Fiji since 20 December 2009 and 28 July 2014, respectively.

As a consequence of the entry into force of the Treaty of Lisbon on 1 December 2009, the European Union has replaced and succeeded the European Community and from that date exercises all rights and assumes all obligations of the European Community.

Article 80 of the Interim Partnership Agreement lays down the provisions regarding the accession of other Pacific Islands States. Accordingly, the Independent State of Samoa and Solomon Islands have acceded to the Interim Partnership Agreement and have been provisionally applying it since 31 December 2018 and 17 May 2020, respectively. On 26 May 2023, Niue submitted an accession request together with a market access offer to the Union.

The Commission assessed Niue's offer and found it acceptable. Accordingly, the Commission concluded negotiations with Niue on 12 June 2023. In accordance with Article 76(3) of the Interim Partnership Agreement, the Union and Niue are to provisionally apply the Interim Partnership Agreement 10 days after notifying each other in writing of the completion of the procedures necessary for that purpose.

It is now necessary to approve the accession of Niue to the Interim Partnership Agreement, subject to Niue's deposit of the act of accession pursuant to Article 80(2).

CONTENT: the Council draft concerns the approval, on behalf of the Union, of the accession of Niue to the Interim Partnership Agreement between the European Community, of the one part, and the Pacific States, of the other part.

The interim EPA:

- is a development-oriented trade agreement, which offers asymmetric market access to Niue 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 Niue's exports into the EU;

- establishes the conditions for EU economic operators to take full advantage of the opportunities between the respective economies. Over the course of its implementation, the interim EPA will largely relieve EU exporters of industrial products to Niue from paying customs duties;

- establishes a set of disciplines in the areas of sustainable development; Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT); and Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) measures among others. Furthermore, the Parties to the interim EPA participate in the Trade Committee established under the Agreement. The possibility of the EU to avail itself of the bilateral dispute settlement mechanism foreseen under the Agreement contributes to the objective of securing a transparent, non-discriminatory and predictable environment for EU operators in the Pacific countries.

Lastly, Niue will benefit from full duty-free quota-free access to the EU market for all products, in exchange for gradually opening up of its market for EU products.

EC/Pacific States Interim Partnership Agreement: accession of Niue

2024/0010(NLE) - 24/01/2024 - Preparatory document

PURPOSE: to approve the accession of Niue 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 (EPA) with the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States (ACP countries).

On 30 July 2009, the EU signed an interim EPA between the Union (the European Community at the time), of the one part, and the Pacific States, of the other part. The interim EPA has been provisionally applied by Papua New Guinea and the Republic of Fiji since 20 December 2009 and 28 July 2014, respectively.

Article 80 of the interim EPA provides for the possibility for other Pacific Islands to accede to the Agreement. Accordingly, the Independent State of Samoa and Solomon Islands acceded to the Agreement and are provisionally applying it since 31 December 2018 and 17 May 2020, respectively.

On 26 May 2023, Niue has submitted a request to the Commission, together with a market access offer, to accede to the interim EPA. The Commission has assessed the offer and found it to be acceptable. Accordingly, it has concluded negotiations on behalf of the Union.

CONTENT: the proposal for a Council Decision constitutes the legal instrument for the approval, on behalf of the European Union (EU), of **the accession of Niue to the interim Partnership Agreement between the European Union, of the one part, and the Pacific States, of the other part**.

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 interim EPA is a development-oriented trade agreement, which offers asymmetric market access to Niue 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 Niue's exports into the EU.

The interim EPA establishes the conditions for EU economic operators to take full advantage of the opportunities between the respective economies. Over the course of its implementation, the interim EPA will largely relieve EU exporters of industrial products to Niue from paying customs duties.

The interim EPA also establishes a set of disciplines in the areas of sustainable development; Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT); and Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) measures among others. Furthermore, the Parties to the interim EPA participate in the Trade Committee established under the Agreement. The possibility of the EU to avail itself of the bilateral dispute settlement mechanism foreseen under the Agreement contributes to the objective of securing a transparent, non-discriminatory and predictable environment for EU operators in the Pacific countries.

The proposal contains provisions on the approval, on behalf of the Union, of the accession of Niue to the interim EPA and on notifications in order to express the consent of the European Union to accession and the provisional application of the Agreement.

Budgetary implications

Niue will benefit from full duty-free quota-free access to the EU market for all products, in exchange for gradually opening up of its market for EU products. There will be no budgetary implications as the accession to the Agreement will largely continue Niue's market access (under standard GSP) into the EU on the same terms of preferences.