II

(Non-legislative acts)

INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS

COUNCIL DECISION (EU) 2017/2182

of 20 November 2017

on the signing, on behalf of the European Union, of an Agreement in the form of an Exchange of Letters between the European Union and the Kingdom of Norway concerning additional trade preferences in agricultural products

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, and in particular the first subparagraph of Article 207(4), in conjunction with Article 218(5) thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the European Commission,

Whereas:

(1) Article 19 of the Agreement on the European Economic Area ('the EEA Agreement') provides that the Contracting Parties undertake to continue their efforts with a view to achieving progressive liberalisation of agricultural trade.

(2) On 18 November 2014, the Council authorised the Commission to open negotiations with Norway with a view to achieving greater liberalisation of bilateral trade in agricultural products under Article 19 of the EEA Agreement. The negotiations were successfully concluded and an Agreement in the form of an Exchange of Letters between the European Union and the Kingdom of Norway concerning additional trade preferences in agricultural products ('the Agreement') was initialled on 5 April 2017.

(3) The Agreement should be signed on behalf of the Union, subject to its conclusion,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

The signing on behalf of the Union of the Agreement in the form of an Exchange of Letters between the European Union and the Kingdom of Norway concerning additional trade preferences in agricultural products is hereby authorised, subject to the conclusion of the said Agreement ([1]).

Article 2

The President of the Council is hereby authorised to designate the person(s) empowered to sign the Agreement on behalf of the Union.

([1]) The text of the Agreement will be published in the Official Journal together with the decision on its conclusion.

Article 3

This Decision shall enter into force on the date of its adoption.

Done at Brussels, 20 November 2017.

For the Council
The President
M. MAASIKAS