II

(Non-legislative acts)

INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS

COUNCIL DECISION (EU) 2019/610

of 8 April 2019

on the conclusion, on behalf of the European Union and its Member States, of a Protocol to the Euro-Mediterranean Agreement establishing an association between the European Communities and their Member States, of the one part, and the State of Israel, of the other part, to take account of the accession of the Republic of Croatia to the European Union

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, and in particular Article 217, in conjunction with Article 218(6)(a) thereof,

Having regard to the Act of Accession of the Republic of Croatia, and in particular Article 6(2) thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the European Commission,

Having regard to the consent of the European Parliament ([1]),

Whereas:

(1) The Euro-Mediterranean Agreement establishing an association between the European Communities and their Member States, of the one part, and the State of Israel, of the other part ([2]) ('the Agreement'), was signed on 20 November 1995. The Agreement entered into force on 1 June 2000.

(2) The Republic of Croatia became a Member State of the European Union on 1 July 2013.

(3) In accordance with Article 6(2) of the Act of Accession of the Republic of Croatia, the accession of the Republic of Croatia to this Agreement is to be agreed by means of a protocol to the Agreement concluded between the Council, acting unanimously on behalf of the Member States, and the State of Israel.

(4) On 14 September 2012, the Council authorised the Commission to open negotiations with the State of Israel. The negotiations were successfully concluded.

(5) In accordance with Council Decision (EU) 2019/102 ([3]), the Protocol to the Euro-Mediterranean Agreement establishing an Association between the European Communities and their Member States, of the one part, and the State of Israel, of the other part, to take account of the accession of the Republic of Croatia to the European Union was signed on behalf of the Union and its Member States in Brussels on 20 December 2018.

(6) The Protocol should be approved,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

The Protocol to the Euro-Mediterranean Agreement establishing an association between the European Communities and their Member States, of the one part, and the State of Israel, of the other part, to take account of the accession of the Republic of Croatia to the European Union, is hereby approved on behalf of the Union and its Member States ([4]).

([1]) Consent of 26 March 2019 (not yet published in the Official Journal).
([2]) OJ L 147, 21.6.2000, p. 3.
([3]) OJ L 21, 24.1.2019, p. 1.
([4]) The text of the Protocol has been published in OJ L 21 of 24.1.2019 together with the decision on its signature.

Article 2

The President of the Council shall, on behalf of the Union and its Member States, give the notification provided for in Article 7(1) of the Protocol, in order to express the consent of the Union and its Member States to be bound by the Protocol ([5]).

Article 3

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

Done at Luxembourg, 8 April 2019.

For the Council
The President
F. MOGHERINI

([5]) The date of entry into force of the Protocol will be published in the *Official Journal of the European Union* by the General Secretariat of the Council.