



**2018/0256(NLE)**

28.9.2018

## **DRAFT OPINION**

of the Committee on Foreign Affairs

for the Committee on International Trade

on the proposal for a Council decision on the conclusion of the Agreement in the form of an exchange of letters between the European Union and the Kingdom of Morocco on the amendment of Protocols 1 and 4 to the Euro-Mediterranean Agreement establishing an association between the European Communities and their Member States, of the one part, and the Kingdom of Morocco, of the other part  
(COM(2018)0481 – C8-0000/2018 – 2018/0256(NLE))

Rapporteur for opinion: Anders Primdahl Vistisen

PA\_Leg\_Consent

## SHORT JUSTIFICATION

This agreement - amending Protocols 1 and 4 to the Euro-Mediterranean Agreement - aims to provide guarantees on the respect of international law, including human rights, and the sustainable development in the territories concerned.

It is important to underline that this agreement does not imply the recognition of Morocco's sovereignty over Western Sahara. The EU position remains to support UN efforts to secure a fair, lasting and mutually acceptable settlement to the Western Sahara conflict, on the basis of the right to self-determination of the Sahrawi people and in accordance with the relevant UN resolutions.

As mentioned in the opinion to the accompanying resolution, the rapporteur acknowledges the efforts of the Commission and of the EEAS in trying, within the remits of their respective competences, to evaluate the benefit for the population and to ascertain their consent to this agreement. He also valued the outcome of the inclusive consultations led by the Commission and the EEAS with a wide variety of Western Saharan local representatives, civil society and other organisations and bodies, through which broad support was expressed for the socio-economic benefits the proposed tariff preference would bring.

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The Committee on Foreign Affairs calls on the Committee on International Trade, as the committee responsible, to recommend that Parliament give its consent to the proposal for a Council decision relating to the signature, on behalf of the European Union, of the Agreement in the form of an exchange of letters between the European Union and the Kingdom of Morocco on the amendment of Protocols 1 and 4 to the Euro-Mediterranean Agreement establishing an association between the European Communities and their Member States, of the one part, and the Kingdom of Morocco, of the other part.