

## II

*(Non-legislative acts)*

## INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS

COUNCIL DECISION (EU) 2016/776

of 29 April 2016

**on the signing, on behalf of the European Union, and provisional application of the Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Union and the Government of the Cook Islands and the Implementation Protocol thereto**

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, and in particular Article 43 in conjunction with Article 218(5) thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the European Commission,

Whereas:

- (1) The Union and the Government of the Cook Islands have negotiated a Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement ('the Agreement') and an Implementation Protocol thereto ('the Protocol'), granting Union vessels fishing opportunities in the waters over which the Cook Islands has sovereign rights or jurisdiction in respect of fisheries.
- (2) Negotiations were successfully finalised and the Agreement and the Protocol were initialled on 21 October 2015.
- (3) Article 16 of the Agreement and Article 12 of the Protocol provide for the provisional application of the Agreement and of the Protocol from the date of their signature.
- (4) The Agreement and the Protocol should be signed, and applied on a provisional basis, pending the completion of the procedures necessary for their conclusion,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

*Article 1*

The signing, on behalf of the Union, of the Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Union and the Government of the Cook Islands and of the Implementation Protocol thereto is hereby authorised, subject to the conclusion of the said Agreement and Protocol.

The texts of the Agreement and the Protocol are attached to this Decision.

*Article 2*

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

*Article 3*

The Agreement and the Protocol shall be applied on a provisional basis as from the date of their signature, pending the completion of the procedures necessary for their conclusion <sup>(1)</sup>.

*Article 4*

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

Done at Brussels, 29 April 2016.

*For the Council*  
*The President*  
A.G. KOENDERS

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<sup>(1)</sup> The date of provisional application of the Agreement and of the Protocol will be published in the *Official Journal of the European Union* by the General Secretariat of the Council.