

II

(Acts whose publication is not obligatory)

COUNCIL

COUNCIL DECISION

of 26 July 2004

concerning the conclusion of an Agreement between the European Community and the Russian Federation amending the Agreement between the European Coal and Steel Community and the Government of the Russian Federation on trade in certain steel products

(2004/583/EC)

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

trade in certain steel products⁽²⁾ (hereinafter referred to as 'the Agreement'), approved on behalf of the ECSC by Commission Decision 2002/603/ECSC⁽³⁾.

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community, and in particular Article 133 in conjunction with the first sentence of Article 300(2) thereof,

(4) The ECSC Treaty expired on 23 July 2002 and the European Community took over all rights and obligations contracted by the ECSC.

Having regard to the proposal from the Commission,

Whereas:

(5) Pursuant to Article 10(2) of the Agreement the Parties agreed that it should be continued and that all rights and obligations of the Parties should be maintained after such expiry.

(1) The Partnership and Cooperation Agreement establishing a partnership between the European Communities and their Member States, of one part, and the Russian Federation, of the other part⁽¹⁾, entered into force on 1 December 1997.

(6) The Parties entered into consultations as provided for in Article 2(4) of the Agreement and agreed to increase the quantitative limits set out in the Agreement to take into account the enlargement of the European Union.

(2) Article 21 of the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement provides that trade in European Coal and Steel Community (hereinafter referred to as 'the ECSC') products is to be governed by Title III of that Agreement, save for Article 15 thereof, and by the provisions of an Agreement on quantitative arrangements concerning exchanges of ECSC steel products.

(7) Furthermore, the Parties agreed to increase the quantitative limits also with regard to Declaration No 1 of the Agreement on the setting up of service centres in the European Union.

(3) On the 9 July 2002 the ECSC and the Government of the Russian Federation concluded such an Agreement on

(8) The amending Agreement should be approved,

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 327, 28.11.1997, p. 3. Agreement as last amended by Agreement between the European Communities and the Government of the Russian Federation (OJ L 9, 15.1.2004, p. 22).

⁽²⁾ OJ L 195, 24.7.2002, p. 55.

⁽³⁾ OJ L 195, 24.7.2002, p. 54.

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1

1. The Agreement between the European Community and the Government of the Russian Federation amending the Agreement between the European Coal and Steel Community and the Government of the Russian Federation concerning trade in certain steel products is hereby approved on behalf of the Community.

2. The text of the Agreement is attached to this Decision.

Article 2

The President of the Council is hereby authorised to designate the person empowered to sign the Agreement in order to bind the Community.

Done at Brussels, 26 July 2004.

For the Council

The President

B. BOT
