

## ACTS ADOPTED BY BODIES CREATED BY INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS

### DECISION No 1/2012 OF THE EU-TUNISIA ASSOCIATION COUNCIL

of 20 February 2012

**amending Article 15(7) of Protocol 4 to the Euro-Mediterranean Agreement establishing an association between the European Communities and their Member States, of the one part, and the Republic of Tunisia, of the other part, concerning the definition of the concept of 'originating products' and methods of administrative cooperation**

(2012/198/EU)

THE ASSOCIATION COUNCIL,

Having regard to the Euro-Mediterranean Agreement establishing an association between the European Communities and their Member States, of the one part, and the Republic of Tunisia, of the other part, and in particular Article 39 of Protocol 4 thereto,

Whereas:

- (1) Article 15(7) of Protocol 4 <sup>(1)</sup> to the Euro-Mediterranean Agreement establishing an association between the European Communities and their Member States, of the one part, and the Republic of Tunisia, of the other part <sup>(2)</sup> (hereafter referred to as 'the Agreement'), allows drawback of, or exemption from, customs duties or charges having an equivalent effect, subject to certain conditions, until 31 December 2009.
- (2) To provide clarity, long-term economic predictability and legal certainty for economic operators, the Parties to the Agreement have agreed to extend the application period of Article 15(7) of Protocol 4 to the Agreement by three years, with effect from 1 January 2010.
- (3) Moreover, the rates of customs charges currently applicable in Tunisia should be adjusted to bring them into line with those that apply in the European Union.
- (4) Protocol 4 to the Agreement should therefore be amended accordingly.
- (5) Since Article 15(7) of Protocol 4 to the Agreement no longer applies as of 31 December 2009, this Decision should apply from 1 January 2010,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

#### *Article 1*

Article 15(7) of Protocol No 4 to the Euro-Mediterranean Agreement establishing an association between the European

Communities and their Member States, of the one part, and the Republic of Tunisia, of the other part, concerning the definition of the concept of 'originating products' and methods of administrative cooperation, is replaced by the following:

'7. Notwithstanding paragraph 1, Tunisia may, except for products falling within Chapters 1 to 24 of the Harmonised System, apply arrangements for drawback of, or exemption from, customs duties or charges having an equivalent effect, applicable to non-originating materials used in the manufacture of originating products, subject to the following provisions:

- (a) a 4 % rate of customs charge shall be retained in respect of products falling within Chapters 25 to 49 and 64 to 97 of the Harmonised System, or such lower rate as is in force in Tunisia;
- (b) an 8 % rate of customs charge shall be retained in respect of products falling within Chapters 50 to 63 of the Harmonised System, or such lower rate as is in force in Tunisia.

This paragraph shall apply until 31 December 2012 and may be reviewed by common accord.'

#### *Article 2*

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

It shall apply from 1 January 2010.

Done at Brussels, 20 February 2012.

*For the EU-Tunisia Association Council*

*The President*

C. ASHTON

<sup>(1)</sup> OJ L 260, 21.9.2006, p. 3.

<sup>(2)</sup> OJ L 97, 30.3.1998, p. 2.