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I

(Legislative acts)

DIRECTIVES

DIRECTIVE (EU) 2015/254 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL**of 11 February 2015****repealing Council Directive 93/5/EEC on assistance to the Commission and cooperation by the Member States in the scientific examination of questions relating to food****(Text with EEA relevance)**

THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, and in particular Article 114 thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the European Commission,

After transmission of the draft legislative act to the national parliaments,

Having regard to the opinion of the European Economic and Social Committee ⁽¹⁾,

Acting in accordance with the ordinary legislative procedure ⁽²⁾,

Whereas:

- (1) In the framework of the Regulatory Fitness and Performance Programme (REFIT), the Commission is committed to achieving a simple, clear, stable and predictable regulatory framework for businesses, workers and citizens.
- (2) Council Directive 93/5/EEC ⁽³⁾ aims to ensure the smooth running of the Scientific Committee on Food by promoting the scientific support from the Member States to that Committee and by organising cooperation with the relevant national bodies on scientific issues regarding the safety of foodstuffs.
- (3) Pursuant to Regulation (EC) No 178/2002 of the European Parliament and of the Council ⁽⁴⁾, the tasks of the Scientific Committee on Food referred to in Directive 93/5/EEC have been transferred to the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA), and those tasks are currently provided for by Regulation (EC) No 178/2002.
- (4) Commission Decision 97/579/EC ⁽⁵⁾ which established the Scientific Committee on Food has been repealed by Commission Decision 2004/210/EC ⁽⁶⁾.

⁽¹⁾ OJ C 451, 16.12.2014, p. 157.

⁽²⁾ Position of the European Parliament of 16 December 2014 (not yet published in the Official Journal) and Decision of the Council of 27 January 2015.

⁽³⁾ Council Directive 93/5/EEC of 25 February 1993 on assistance to the Commission and cooperation by the Member States in the scientific examination of questions relating to food (OJ L 52, 4.3.1993, p. 18).

⁽⁴⁾ Regulation (EC) No 178/2002 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 January 2002 laying down the general principles and requirements of food law, establishing the European Food Safety Authority and laying down the procedures in matters of food safety (OJ L 31, 1.2.2002, p. 1).

⁽⁵⁾ Commission Decision 97/579/EC of 23 July 1997 setting up Scientific Committees in the field of consumer health and food safety (OJ L 237, 28.8.1997, p. 18).

⁽⁶⁾ Commission Decision 2004/210/EC of 3 March 2004 setting up Scientific Committees in the field of consumer safety, public health and the environment (OJ L 66, 4.3.2004, p. 45).

- (5) Pursuant to Regulation (EC) No 178/2002, EFSA has also become the competent body to promote scientific cooperation with the Member States and relevant national bodies operating in the fields falling within EFSA's mission. In particular, Article 22 of Regulation (EC) No 178/2002 provides that EFSA is to act in close cooperation with the competent bodies in the Member States and that the Member States are to cooperate with EFSA to ensure the accomplishment of its mission.
- (6) Directive 93/5/EEC has therefore become obsolete and should be repealed,

HAVE ADOPTED THIS DIRECTIVE:

Article 1

Directive 93/5/EEC is repealed.

Article 2

1. Member States shall bring into force the laws, regulations and administrative provisions necessary to comply with this Directive by 29 February 2016. They shall immediately inform the Commission thereof.

When Member States adopt those measures, they shall contain a reference to this Directive or be accompanied by such reference on the occasion of their official publication. The methods of making such reference shall be laid down by Member States.

2. Member States shall communicate to the Commission the text of the main measures of national law which they adopt in the field covered by this Directive.

Article 3

This Directive shall enter into force on the twentieth day following that of its publication in the *Official Journal of the European Union*.

Article 4

This Directive is addressed to the Member States.

Done at Strasbourg, 11 February 2015.

For the European Parliament

The President

M. SCHULZ

For the Council

The President

Z. KALNIŅA-LUKAŠEVICA

II

(Non-legislative acts)

REGULATIONS

COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING REGULATION (EU) 2015/255

of 13 February 2015

approving minor amendments to the specification for a name entered in the register of protected designations of origin and protected geographical indications (Marchfeldspargel (PGI))

THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,

Having regard to Regulation (EU) No 1151/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 November 2012 on quality schemes for agricultural products and foodstuffs⁽¹⁾, and in particular the second subparagraph of Article 53(2) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) Pursuant to the first subparagraph of Article 53(1) of Regulation (EU) No 1151/2012, the Commission has examined Austria's application for the approval of amendments to the Specification for the Protected Geographical Indication 'Marchfeldspargel' registered under Commission Regulation (EC) No 1263/96⁽²⁾, as amended by Regulation (EC) No 564/2002⁽³⁾.
- (2) The purpose of the application is to amend the specification by amending the inspection authority.
- (3) The Commission has examined the amendments in question and concluded that they are justified. Since the amendments are minor within the meaning of the third subparagraph of Article 53(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1151/2012, the Commission may approve them without following the procedure set out in Articles 50 to 52 of that Regulation,

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

Article 1

The specification for the protected geographical indication 'Marchfeldspargel' is hereby amended in accordance with Annex I to this Regulation.

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 343, 14.12.2012, p. 1.

⁽²⁾ Commission Regulation (EC) No 1263/96 of 1 July 1996 supplementing the Annex to Regulation (EC) No 1107/96 on the registration of geographical indications and designations of origin under the procedure laid down in Article 17 of Regulation (EEC) No 2081/92 (OJ L 163, 2.7.1996, p. 19).

⁽³⁾ Commission Regulation (EC) No 564/2002 of 2 April 2002 amending the specification of two names appearing in the Annex to Regulation (EC) No 1107/96 on the registration of geographical indications and designations of origin under the procedure laid down in Article 17 of Council Regulation (EEC) No 2081/92 on the protection of geographical indications and designations of origin for agricultural products and foodstuffs, and amending the specification of a name appearing in the Annex to Regulation (EC) No 2400/96 on the entry of certain names in the Register of protected designations of origin and protected geographical indications provided for in Council Regulation (EEC) No 2081/92 (Marchfeldspargel/Baena/Lammefjordsgulerod) (OJ L 86, 3.4.2002, p. 7).

Article 2

Annex II to this Regulation contains the consolidated Single Document setting out the main points of the specification.

Article 3

This Regulation shall enter into force on the twentieth day following that of its publication in the *Official Journal of the European Union*.

This Regulation shall be binding in its entirety and directly applicable in all Member States.

Done at Brussels, 13 February 2015.

*For the Commission,
On behalf of the President,
Phil HOGAN
Member of the Commission*

ANNEX I

The specification for the protected geographical indication 'Marchfeldspargel' is amended as follows:

- Under point 5g of the specification, instead of the previous reference to inspection by the Governor of Lower Austria the following private inspection body should be designated:

SGS Austria Controll-Co. GmbH

Diefenbachgasse 35

1150 Vienna

Tel. + 43 15122567-0

Fax +43 15122567-9

E-mail: sgs.austria@sgs.com

- The name of the applicant group has been changed to:

'Verein Genuss Region Marchfeldspargel g.g.A.'

ANNEX II

CONSOLIDATED SINGLE DOCUMENT

Council Regulation (EC) No 510/2006 of 20 March 2006 on the protection of geographical indications and designations of origin for agricultural products and foodstuffs (*)

'MARCHFELDSPARGEL'

EC No: AT-PGI-0217-01213 — 11.03.2014

PGI (X) PDO ()

1. Name

'Marchfeldspargel'

2. Member state or third country

Austria

3. Description of the agricultural product or foodstuff

3.1. Type of product

Class 1.6. Fruit, vegetables and cereals, fresh or processed

3.2. Description of product to which the name in (1) applies:

The asparagus stalks (= young shoots of the asparagus species '*Asparagus officinalis* L. ') must be intact, healthy, free of damage from inappropriate washing, clean, fresh in appearance and smell, pest-free and free of damage from rodents or insects, crushing, bruising or abnormal external moisture, and of foreign odours and/or taste. The cut at the base of the stalks must be as clean as possible. In addition, the asparagus stalks must not be hollow, split, or peeled. Small cracks which have appeared after harvesting are permitted to a limited extent. Marchfeld asparagus has a typical, fine asparagus aroma, with few bitter substances. Its taste must not be bitter or woody.

The asparagus is divided into four categories according to its colour:

- white asparagus,
- violet asparagus: tips of a colour between pink and violet/purple and a partly white stalk,
- violet-green asparagus: partly violet and green colouring,
- green asparagus: tips and most of the stalk must be green.

White and violet asparagus must not exceed 22 cm in length, violet-green and green asparagus must not exceed 25 cm in length.

Varieties:

- German: Ruhm von Braunschweig, Schwetzingen Meisterschuss, Huchels Auslese, Lukullus, Vulkan, Presto, Merkur, Hermes, Eposs, Ravel, Ramos.

Green asparagus varieties (= anthocyanin-free) Spaganiva, Schneewittchen, Schneekopf,

- Dutch: Venlim, Carlim, Gijnlim, Boonlim, Backlim, Thielim, Horlim, Prelim, Grolim,
- French: Larac, Cito, Aneto, Desto, Selection 'Darbonne n°4', Selection 'Darbonne n°3', Jacq. Ma. 2001, Jacq. Ma. 2002, Andreas, Dariana, Cipres, Viola,
- United States: Mary Washington

(*) OJL 93, 31.3.2006, p. 12. Replaced by Regulation (EU) No 1151/2012.

3.3. *Raw materials (for processed products only)*

—

3.4. *Feed (for products of animal origin only)*

—

3.5. *Specific steps in production that must take place in the defined geographical area*

—

3.6. *Specific rules concerning slicing, grating, packaging, etc.*

Marchfeld asparagus is marketed in firmly bound bundles, stacked in boxes, or in small packs. The asparagus is sorted by size according to the diameters in the specification. The contents of each package or bundle must be uniform and must include only asparagus of the same origin, product category and colour category. The asparagus may be packaged only in anti-humidity, light-deflecting materials which can be sealed.

A special transport system ensures that daily fresh asparagus is available throughout Austria within 24 hours.

3.7. *Specific rules concerning labelling*

Common logo; the protected label 'Marchfeldspargel' and name, address, colour category, class, grade, weight, and number of packages.

4. Concise definition of the geographical area

Marchfeld: the fertile plain to the east of Vienna, between the rivers Danube and Morava (German: March); it is demarcated by the Danube to the south, the Morava to the east, the Weinviertel hills to the north, and the Vienna city boundary to the west.

5. Link with the geographical area

5.1. *Specificity of the geographical area*

The Marchfeld region is influenced by the climate of the western foothills of the Pannonian Steppes and has specific soil types (riverside, chernozem, colluvial and alluvial soils with high humus levels and varying high levels of loam and loess). Together with south-east Styria, it has the most days of sunshine per year of any region in Austria and it is one of the warmest areas in the country. The Marchfeld region has been an influential asparagus-producing region since the nineteenth century (at the time of the Austro-Hungarian monarchy, individual farms supplied the Imperial Court in Vienna), so the Marchfeld asparagus farmers are very experienced in asparagus cultivation. The favourable production conditions make it easy to comply with ecological standards.

5.2. *Specificity of the product*

Marchfeld asparagus is characterised by its distinctive asparagus aroma; it contains fewer bitter substances than comparable products and is striking on account of its particular tenderness.

5.3. *Causal link between the geographical area and the quality or characteristics of the product (for PDO) or a specific quality, the reputation or other characteristic of the product (for PGI)*

The climatic conditions, combined with the specific soil types, are ideal for asparagus cultivation. The high average temperatures together with sufficient moisture mean that conditions are very well-suited to cultivation. The wild form of asparagus is thus native to the Marchfeld region. The long experience of the Marchfeld asparagus farmers helps to ensure that only varieties best-suited to the production conditions are cultivated. Given that the asparagus varieties used are well-suited to the specific soil conditions in the Marchfeld region, Marchfeld asparagus contains very few bitter substances. Moreover, Marchfeld asparagus shoots are harvested shorter than comparable products, so they are less woody.

Marchfeld asparagus also enjoys a good reputation; the 'Marchfeld asparagus season' is opened by leading political, business and cultural figures, and as part of this event, the 'Marchfeld asparagus queen' is crowned.

Reference to publication of the specification

(Article 5(7) of Regulation (EC) No 510/2006)

<http://www.patentamt.at/Media/Marchfeldspargel.pdf>

COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING REGULATION (EU) 2015/256**of 13 February 2015****approving non-minor amendments to the specification for a name entered in the register of protected designations of origin and protected geographical indications (Comté (PDO))**

THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,

Having regard to Regulation (EU) No 1151/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 November 2012 on quality schemes for agricultural products and foodstuffs ⁽¹⁾, and in particular Article 52(2) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) Pursuant to the first subparagraph of Article 53(1) of Regulation (EU) No 1151/2012, the Commission has examined France's application for the approval of amendments to the specification for the protected designation of origin 'Comté' registered under Commission Regulation (EC) No 1107/96 ⁽²⁾, as amended by Regulation (EC) No 828/2003 ⁽³⁾.
- (2) Since the amendments in question are not minor within the meaning of Article 53(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1151/2012, the Commission published the amendment application in the *Official Journal of the European Union* ⁽⁴⁾ as required by Article 50(2)(a) of that Regulation.
- (3) As no statement of opposition under Article 51 of Regulation (EU) No 1151/2012 has been received by the Commission, the amendments to the specification should be approved,

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

*Article 1*The amendments to the specification published in the *Official Journal of the European Union* regarding the name 'Comté' (PDO) are hereby approved.*Article 2*This Regulation shall enter into force on the twentieth day following that of its publication in the *Official Journal of the European Union*.

This Regulation shall be binding in its entirety and directly applicable in all Member States.

Done at Brussels, 13 February 2015.

For the Commission,
On behalf of the President,
Phil HOGAN
Member of the Commission

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 343, 14.12.2012, p. 1.

⁽²⁾ Commission Regulation (EC) No 1107/96 of 12 June 1996 on the registration of geographical indications and designations of origin under the procedure laid down in Article 17 of Council Regulation (EEC) No 2081/92 (OJ L 148, 21.6.1996, p. 1).

⁽³⁾ Commission Regulation (EC) No 828/2003 of 14 May 2003 amending the specification of 16 names appearing in the Annex to Regulation (EC) No 1107/96 on the registration of geographical indications and designations of origin under the procedure laid down in Article 17 of Council Regulation (EEC) No 2081/92 on the protection of geographical indications and designations of origin for agricultural products and foodstuffs (Danablu, Monti Iblei, Lesbos, Beaufort, Salers, Reblochon or Reblochon de Savoie, Laguiole, Mont d'Or or Vacherin du Haut-Doubs, Comté, Roquefort, Epoisses de Bourgogne, Brocciu corse or Brocciu, Sainte-Maure de Touraine, Ossau-Iraty, Dinde de Bresse, Huile essentielle de lavande de Haute-Provence) (OJ L 120, 15.5.2003, p. 3).

⁽⁴⁾ OJ C 356, 9.10.2014, p. 54.

COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING REGULATION (EU) 2015/257**of 13 February 2015****approving non-minor amendments to the specification for a name entered in the register of protected designations of origin and protected geographical indications (Fasola Piękny Jaś z Doliny Dunajca/Fasola z Doliny Dunajca (PDO))**

THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,

Having regard to Regulation (EU) No 1151/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 November 2012 on quality schemes for agricultural products and foodstuffs ⁽¹⁾, and in particular Article 52(2) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) By virtue of the first subparagraph of Article 53(1) of Regulation (EU) No 1151/2012, the Commission has examined Poland's application for the approval of amendments to the specification for the protected designation of origin 'Fasola Piękny Jaś z Doliny Dunajca'/Fasola z Doliny Dunajca', registered under Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 1073/2011 ⁽²⁾.
- (2) Since the amendments in question are not minor within the meaning of Article 53(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1151/2012, the Commission published the amendment application in the *Official Journal of the European Union* ⁽³⁾ as required by Article 50(2)(a) of that Regulation.
- (3) As no statement of opposition under Article 51 of Regulation (EU) No 1151/2012 has been received by the Commission, the amendments should be approved,

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

*Article 1*The amendments to the specification published in the *Official Journal of the European Union* regarding the name 'Fasola Piękny Jaś z Doliny Dunajca'/Fasola z Doliny Dunajca' (PDO) are hereby approved.*Article 2*This Regulation shall enter into force on the twentieth day following that of its publication in the *Official Journal of the European Union*.

This Regulation shall be binding in its entirety and directly applicable in all Member States.

Done at Brussels, 13 February 2015.

For the Commission,
On behalf of the President,
Phil HOGAN
Member of the Commission

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 343, 14.12.2012, p. 1.

⁽²⁾ Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 1073/2011 of 20 October 2011 entering a name in the register of protected designations of origin and protected geographical indications (Fasola Piękny Jaś z Doliny Dunajca/Fasola z Doliny Dunajca (PDO)) (OJ L 278, 25.10.2011, p. 3).

⁽³⁾ OJ C 352, 7.10.2014, p. 17.

COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING REGULATION (EU) 2015/258**of 17 February 2015****establishing the standard import values for determining the entry price of certain fruit and vegetables**

THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,

Having regard to Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 establishing a common organisation of the markets in agricultural products and repealing Council Regulations (EEC) No 922/72, (EEC) No 234/79, (EC) No 1037/2001 and (EC) No 1234/2007 ⁽¹⁾,

Having regard to Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 543/2011 of 7 June 2011 laying down detailed rules for the application of Council Regulation (EC) No 1234/2007 in respect of the fruit and vegetables and processed fruit and vegetables sectors ⁽²⁾, and in particular Article 136(1) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) Implementing Regulation (EU) No 543/2011 lays down, pursuant to the outcome of the Uruguay Round multilateral trade negotiations, the criteria whereby the Commission fixes the standard values for imports from third countries, in respect of the products and periods stipulated in Annex XVI, Part A thereto.
- (2) The standard import value is calculated each working day, in accordance with Article 136(1) of Implementing Regulation (EU) No 543/2011, taking into account variable daily data. Therefore this Regulation should enter into force on the day of its publication in the *Official Journal of the European Union*,

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

Article 1

The standard import values referred to in Article 136 of Implementing Regulation (EU) No 543/2011 are fixed in the Annex to this Regulation.

Article 2

This Regulation shall enter into force on the day of its publication in the *Official Journal of the European Union*.

This Regulation shall be binding in its entirety and directly applicable in all Member States.

Done at Brussels, 17 February 2015.

*For the Commission,
On behalf of the President,
Jerzy PLEWA*

Director-General for Agriculture and Rural Development

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 347, 20.12.2013, p. 671.

⁽²⁾ OJ L 157, 15.6.2011, p. 1.

ANNEX

Standard import values for determining the entry price of certain fruit and vegetables

<i>(EUR/100 kg)</i>		
CN code	Third country code ⁽¹⁾	Standard import value
0702 00 00	EG	116,3
	IL	80,8
	MA	86,6
	TR	123,9
	ZZ	101,9
0707 00 05	EG	191,6
	TR	190,1
	ZZ	190,9
0709 93 10	MA	195,0
	TR	235,6
	ZZ	215,3
0805 10 20	EG	53,2
	IL	69,8
	MA	45,8
	TN	51,5
	TR	68,7
	ZZ	57,8
0805 20 10	IL	136,1
	MA	100,7
	ZZ	118,4
0805 20 30, 0805 20 50, 0805 20 70, 0805 20 90	EG	93,4
	IL	146,9
	JM	118,8
	MA	114,4
	TR	72,6
	US	148,9
	ZZ	115,8
	ZZ	115,8
0805 50 10	EG	41,3
	TR	58,9
	ZZ	50,1
0808 10 80	BR	67,1
	CL	94,6
	US	169,6
	ZZ	110,4

(EUR/100 kg)

CN code	Third country code ⁽¹⁾	Standard import value
0808 30 90	CL	133,1
	CN	72,5
	ZA	90,1
	ZZ	98,6

⁽¹⁾ Nomenclature of countries laid down by Commission Regulation (EU) No 1106/2012 of 27 November 2012 implementing Regulation (EC) No 471/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council on Community statistics relating to external trade with non-member countries, as regards the update of the nomenclature of countries and territories (OJ L 328, 28.11.2012, p. 7). Code 'ZZ' stands for 'of other origin'.

DECISIONS

COUNCIL DECISION (CFSP) 2015/259

of 17 February 2015

in support of activities of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) in the framework of the implementation of the EU Strategy against Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty on European Union, and in particular Article 28 thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) On 12 December 2003, the European Council adopted the EU Strategy against Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction (hereinafter the 'EU Strategy'), Chapter III of which contains a list of measures to combat such proliferation.
- (2) The EU Strategy underlines the crucial role of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on their Destruction ('CWC') and of the OPCW in creating a world free of chemical weapons. As part of the EU Strategy, the Union has committed itself to working towards universal adherence to key disarmament and non-proliferation treaties and agreements, including the CWC. The objectives of the EU Strategy are complementary to the objectives pursued by the OPCW, in the context of the latter's responsibility for the implementation of the CWC.
- (3) On 22 November 2004, the Council adopted Joint Action 2004/797/CFSP ⁽¹⁾ on support for OPCW activities, followed on its expiry by Joint Action 2005/913/CFSP ⁽²⁾, which in turn was followed by Joint Action 2007/185/CFSP ⁽³⁾. Joint Action 2007/185/CFSP was followed by Decision 2009/569/CFSP ⁽⁴⁾ and Decision 2012/166/CFSP ⁽⁵⁾ which expires on 31 January 2015.
- (4) The continuation of such intensive and targeted assistance from the Union to the OPCW is necessary in the context of the active implementation of Chapter III of the EU Strategy. There is a need for further activities promoting the full implementation of the CWC as well as activities enhancing the preparedness of State Parties to the CWC ('State Parties') to prevent and respond to attacks involving toxic chemicals, international cooperation in the field of chemical activities, and the ability of the OPCW to adapt to developments in the field of science and technology. Measures related to the universalisation of the CWC should continue and be adapted to and targeted at the declining number of States not Parties to the CWC.
- (5) From 8 to 19 April 2013, the Third Special Session of the Conference of the State Parties to Review the Operation of the CWC took place in The Hague, the Netherlands. The Union supported the final report of the Conference, which addressed all aspects of the CWC and made important recommendations on its implementation. Those recommendations also include priority objectives for the Union referred to in Recital 4 and the EU Strategy. Support for the implementation of those recommendations is crucial to ensure continued relevance of the CWC and preventing the re-emergence of chemical weapons.

⁽¹⁾ Council Joint Action 2004/797/CFSP of 22 November 2004 on support for OPCW activities in the framework of the implementation of the EU Strategy against Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction (OJ L 349, 25.11.2004, p. 63).

⁽²⁾ Council Joint Action 2005/913/CFSP of 12 December 2005 on support for OPCW activities in the framework of the implementation of the EU Strategy against Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction (OJ L 331, 17.12.2005, p. 34).

⁽³⁾ Council Joint Action 2007/185/CFSP of 19 March 2007 on support for OPCW activities in the framework of the implementation of the EU Strategy against Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction (OJ L 85, 27.3.2007, p. 10).

⁽⁴⁾ Council Decision 2009/569/CFSP of 27 July 2009 on support for OPCW activities in the framework of the implementation of the EU Strategy against Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction (OJ L 197, 29.7.2009, p. 96).

⁽⁵⁾ Council Decision 2012/166/CFSP of 23 March 2012 in support of activities of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) in the framework of the implementation of the EU Strategy against Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction (OJ L 87, 24.3.2012, p. 49).

- (6) The Union has provided political, financial and in-kind support to the joint UN-OPCW operations in Syria aimed at the total destruction of Syrian chemical weapons and agents. The Union is determined to build on the lessons learned from Syria,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

1. For the purpose of giving immediate and practical application to some elements of the EU Strategy, the Union shall support activities of the OPCW, with the following objectives:

- to enhance the capacities of State Parties in fulfilling their obligations under the CWC,
- to enhance the preparedness of State Parties to prevent and respond to attacks involving toxic chemicals,
- to enhance international cooperation in the field of chemical activities,
- to support the ability of the OPCW to adapt to developments in the field of science and technology,
- to promote universality by encouraging States not Parties to join the CWC.

2. In this context, the Union-supported activities of the projects of the OPCW, which are in compliance with the measures of the EU Strategy, shall be the following:

Project I: National Implementation, Verification and Universality

Activities:

- Regional Training Course for Customs Authorities of State Parties on Technical Aspects of the CWC's Transfers' Regime
- Updating e-learning tools for national authorities/associated stakeholders
- Support for Development of 'Advocacy' Plans for raising awareness on the national implementation of the CWC
- National Implementation Capacity Assessment for National Authorities
- Mentorship Programme
- Legal workshop for Caribbean and Central American State Parties
- Strengthening Training Capabilities for OPCW Technical Secretariat inspectors and experts
- Modernisation of the Information Management Systems for the OPCW Verification Division
- Visits of Executive Council representatives and Observers of State Parties with developing economies to chemical weapons destruction facilities
- Implementing the lessons arising from the Syria mission

Project II: International Cooperation

Activities:

- Analytical skills development course
- Industry Outreach
- Chemical Safety and Security Management Workshops

Project III: Science and Technology

Activities:

- Chemical informatics for facilitating international collaboration
- Assessment of developments in science and technology

- Multiple uses of chemistry: understanding the security aspects of technological developments
- Support for Temporary Working Groups (TWGs) of the OPCW's Scientific Advisory Board (SAB)
- The development of standardised analytical methods for the analysis of biological toxins

Project IV: Preparedness of State Parties to prevent and respond to attacks involving chemicals

Activities:

- Regional Assistance and Protection Training — Central Asia
- Regional Coordination Exercise on Assistance Delivery
- Regional Assistance and Protection Workshops
- Table Top Exercises

Project V: Universality and outreach

- Translation and dissemination of education and outreach tools and materials
- Production of an OPCW exhibition
- Youth outreach
- Universality Facilitation for Non-State Parties to join the CWC
- Support for NGO participation in OPCW activities
- Support for development and promotion of 'Fires' video documentary series

Project VI: Africa Programme

- Regional National Authority Stakeholders Forum
- Regional Training Course for Customs Authorities of State Parties on Technical Aspects of the CWC's Transfers' Regime
- Provision of Academic/Informative Materials on CWC
- Synergies and Partnership for effective implementation
- Analytical Skills Development Courses
- Industry Outreach
- Chemical Safety and Security Management

A detailed description of the Union-supported activities of the OPCW referred to above is set out in the Annex.

Article 2

1. The High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy (HR) shall be responsible for the implementation of this Decision.
2. Technical implementation of the projects referred to in Article 1(2) shall be carried out by the OPCW Technical Secretariat (the 'Technical Secretariat'). It shall perform this task under the responsibility and the control of the HR. For this purpose, the HR shall enter into the necessary arrangements with the Technical Secretariat.

Article 3

1. The financial reference amount for the implementation of the projects referred to in Article 1(2) shall be EUR 2 528 069.
2. The expenditure financed by the amount set out in paragraph 1 shall be managed in accordance with the procedures and rules applicable to the general budget of the European Union.

3. The Commission shall supervise the proper management of the expenditure referred to in paragraph 1. For this purpose, it shall conclude a financing agreement with the Technical Secretariat. The agreement shall stipulate that the Technical Secretariat is to ensure visibility of the Union contribution, commensurate with its size and specify measures facilitating developing synergies and avoiding duplication of activities.
4. The Commission shall endeavour to conclude the financing agreement referred to in paragraph 3 as soon as possible after 17 February 2015. It shall inform the Council of any difficulties in that process and of the date of conclusion of the agreement.

Article 4

The HR shall report to the Council on the implementation of this Decision on the basis of regular reports prepared by the Technical Secretariat. The HR reports shall form the basis for the evaluation carried out by the Council. The Commission shall provide information on the financial aspects of the projects referred to in Article 1(2).

Article 5

1. This Decision shall enter into force on the date of its adoption.
2. This Decision shall expire 36 months after the date of the conclusion of the financing agreement referred to in Article 3(3). However, it shall expire six months after its entry into force if that financing agreement has not been concluded by that time.

Done in Brussels, 17 February 2015.

For the Council
The President
J. REIRS

ANNEX

Union support for OPCW activities in the framework of the implementation of the EU Strategy against Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction**Project I — National implementation and Verification***Objectives*

- To enhance the capacity of State Parties in fulfilling their obligations under the CWC
- To support non-proliferation of chemical weapons, through the application of the verification and implementation measures provided for in the CWC
- To advance and ensure the elimination of chemical weapons stockpiles and production facilities subject to the verification measures provided for in the CWC.

Purposes

Purpose 1 (National Implementation)

- Enhanced capacity of State Parties for effective national implementation
- Increased number of State Parties able to conduct effective national implementation at quantitative and qualitative level
- Enhanced understanding and awareness of National Authorities (NAs) on CWC-related matters for good cooperation and support.
- Increased number of State Parties able to process and draft legislation for subsequent approval
- Effective function of customs authorities in the control and monitoring of the chemical trade.

Purpose 2 (Verification)

- Enhanced efficiency and full-value services of training courses delivered for OPCW inspectors and experts
- Business processes and quality of information of the Information Management System of the OPCW Verification Division improved, and ability to employ contemporary information analysis techniques gained
- State Parties are able to monitor progress made towards achieving complete destruction of chemical weapons stockpiles and can identify and address problems to achieve destruction at an early stage, and are more confident that tangible and concrete steps are undertaken for the complete destruction of chemical weapons by their possessors
- Improved OPCW adaptability in face of situations similar to the Syria mission in the future, enhancements to the verification regime and activities, improved relations with partner international organisations.

Results

Results 1 (National implementation)

- Customs officials have improved their understanding and ability for effective handling of the duties regarding import/export of scheduled chemicals and coordination with National Authorities
- National Authorities personnel and associated stakeholders have correct and up-to-date information in electronic format for effective learning available
- National Authorities have systematic planning tools for effective implementation of the national efforts available
- National Authorities have comprehensive information on the current situation and specific needs and make progress towards capacity-building for planning effective national implementation

- Mentored State Parties have enhanced capacity for national implementation and work in coordination with the mentor State Party
- State Parties have enhanced understanding and knowledge of proper processes on national legislation in fulfilling national obligations under the CWC.

Results 2 (Verification)

- Level of expertise and know-how of OPCW inspectors and experts on handling of schedule 1 chemicals is maintained at proper standards
- Contemporary capabilities of the Information Management System of the OPCW Verification Division are acquired and disconnected legacy systems are decommissioned
- State Parties have an enhanced understanding of the problems and technical difficulties related to the destruction of chemical weapons, and have increased confidence that tangible and concrete steps are undertaken for the complete destruction of chemical weapon stockpiles
- OPCW has improved its understanding of the Syria mission, assessed the implications for the CWC regime and incorporated the lessons learned into internal operating procedures and practices.

Activities

1. Regional Training Course for Customs Authorities of State Parties on Technical Aspects of the CWC's Transfers' Regime

Support to customs officials has been provided under Joint Action 2005/913/CFSP, Joint Action 2007/185/CFSP, Decision 2009/569/CFSP, and Decision 2012/166/CFSP. On the basis of experience gained, outreach to customs officials through training courses will be undertaken with a view to improving the collection and transmission of data on imports and exports of scheduled chemicals to national authorities. Training undertaken will offer practical hands-on demonstrations and exercises, and will incorporate an element covering 'train the trainers'. The training will be carried out by the Technical Secretariat's Implementation Support Branch with technical expertise from the Declarations Branch in the Latin America and Caribbean region.

2. Updating the e-learning tool for national authorities/associated stakeholders

Support for the development of an e-learning tool for national authorities/associated stakeholders has been provided under Decision 2012/166/CFSP. State Parties have been able to access and use e-learning modules since 2013. To ensure that the information and materials remain relevant and useful, an assessment of users' feedback and recommendations will be conducted, and the findings used for updating and improving the tool. It is expected that e-learning will be more widely used by State Parties. The Technical Secretariat is considering making the e-learning compulsory for some training provided by the OPCW.

3. Support development of 'advocacy' plans

Several National Authorities have advised they have found it difficult to obtain the right level of cooperation and support from some stakeholder institutions. This is mainly due to a lack of understanding and awareness of the CWC, its obligations and commitments placed on the State Parties. This lack of skills, knowledge and experience in 'advocacy' means that when it is undertaken it is not often effective. There is a need to develop/improve the existing advocacy plans, to make them more practical and useful. The advocacy plans will include: education and outreach activities, production of publicity materials, information kits as well as draft action plans. Guidelines and strategies for effective education and outreach at the national and regional level will be drafted and the pilot States will use them as a reference in drafting advocacy plans for their respective States. Pilot projects will be developed in all regions: Asia, Latin America and Caribbean, Africa and Eastern Europe.

4. National Implementation Capacity Assessment

National Authorities should be able to effectively implement the CWC. Some National Authorities require assistance to ensure they are able to fulfil their role effectively. There are several factors that can affect their performance. In order for the Technical Secretariat to provide timely and effective support, it is essential to assess their national capacity to better understand their needs. Assessment programmes will be implemented in all regions. Specifically, the capacity assessment will be conducted jointly by the Technical Secretariat and the respective National Authority. Desk review of a State's situation regarding the CWC implementation will be conducted by relevant Divisions of

the Technical Secretariat before a State visit for an actual assessment. During the visit, the team will hold meetings and consultations with relevant agencies. Each visit will result in a report, outlining milestone developments and a follow-up action plan for capacity building.

5. Mentorship Programme

The National Authority Mentorship Programme is designed to create a partnership between a National Authority which has been more successful and efficient in the implementation of its obligations under the CWC with another at a lower level of implementation. This enhances the functioning of the latter National Authority. The programme has been implemented by the OPCW for a number of years and has proved very useful. Mentorship programmes will be implemented in Africa, Asia and Caribbean and Latin America.

6. Legal workshop for Caribbean and Central American State Parties

These workshops form part of the Technical Secretariat efforts to promote the quicker adoption of national implementing legislation by State Parties in the Caribbean and Central America. The main aim is to provide practical assistance to participating State Parties on legal issues surrounding the national implementation of the CWC. These workshops also seek to support State Parties in finalising their respective drafts, and provide an opportunity for the invited State Parties to consult directly with representatives from the Implementation Support Branch of the OPCW regarding the drafting of national implementing legislation as well as the provision of any other legal assistance, such as the development of subsidiary regulations and rules.

7. Strengthening Training Capabilities for Technical Secretariat inspectors and experts

Training courses involving the handling of schedule 1 chemicals represent one of the crucial elements of the effort to maintain the level of expertise and accumulated know-how of the OPCW. Observance of strict technical standards is crucial for the efficiency and full-value services of training courses being delivered for Technical Secretariat inspectors and experts. At the same time it will increase chemical- and bio- safety and enhance preparedness to prevent and respond to attacks involving toxic chemicals. The activity will include procurement of necessary equipment, appliances and materials, resulting in better performance of the laboratories involved.

8. Modernisation of the Information Management Systems for the OPCW Verification Division

The OPCW Verification Division currently uses various legacy information systems, some of which are heavily customised. These impede the efficient and effective processing of information.

These include:

- disconnected systems,
- legacy systems lacking contemporary capabilities,
- heavy customisation of the systems and inability to make improvements in a timely and resource-efficient way,
- unavailability of contemporary functionality such as full-text search capabilities and digital processing,
- no possibilities for user-driven workflow process management.

This activity aims to modernise the information management systems of the OPCW Verification Division by replacing these bespoke systems with an enterprise document management solution with contemporary capabilities. The expected benefits will be increased efficiency in the processing of information, a reduction in manual work effort, improvements in data quality and extended analytical capabilities.

9. Visits of Executive Council representatives and Observers of State Parties with developing economies to chemical weapons destruction facilities

To date, eight visits have taken place — four in the United States of America, three in the Russian Federation and one in China (Abandoned Chemical Weapons Destruction Facilities), with funding provided under Joint Action 2007/185/CFSP, Decision 2009/569/CFSP, and Decision 2012/166/CFSP. The visits conducted so far have proved to be valuable as a means of addressing questions or concerns about a possessor State Party's programme for fulfilling its obligations on the destruction of its chemical weapons. All State Parties will benefit from these visits which will help enhance transparency and build confidence that progress is being made for the complete destruction of

the remaining chemical weapons in accordance with the provisions of the CWC and under the verification of the Technical Secretariat. The project should encourage broader participation in such visits by State Parties while taking into account the appropriate financial criteria and taking steps to ensure the adequate rotation of participants.

10. Implementing the lessons arising from the Syria mission

With the anticipated end of the programme to eliminate Syria's chemical weapons programme, the OPCW will conduct a review of its involvement in this unprecedented operation. In addition, the OPCW is already participating in a lessons learned exercise being conducted by the United Nations (UN) Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) in the framework of the investigation into the use of chemical weapons in Syria in 2013. Therefore, many of the lessons arising from the UN investigation and the mission to eliminate Syrian chemical weapons should be identified during the course of 2014.

The lessons identified will need to be implemented and incorporated into OPCW procedures and activities. In order to do this most effectively, it is proposed to hold workshops to analyse the lessons identified and the implications for the OPCW of the respective activities in Syria in 2013 and 2014. The outcomes of these workshops will be incorporated into revised OPCW procedures and into future training programmes.

Project II — International Cooperation

Objectives

- To enhance the economic and technological development through international cooperation in the field of chemistry for activities whose purposes are not prohibited under the CWC
- To promote the OPCW mission and CWC objectives through stronger engagement of State Parties in international cooperation initiatives for the peaceful use of chemistry.

Purposes

- To enhance capacity of the publicly funded laboratories in State Parties with developing economies or economies in transition to implement the CWC in the field of peaceful uses of chemistry
- To assist State Parties with developing economies or economies in transition in enhancing chemical safety and security management approaches in chemical industry enterprises of small and medium size.

Results

- Enhanced level of technical competence in publicly funded laboratories in State Parties with developing economies or economies in transition to analyse chemicals related to national implementation of the CWC and in the peaceful application of chemistry using modern analytical methods especially gas chromatography (GC) and gas chromatography/mass spectrometry (GC-MS)
- Upgraded levels of competence and understanding by the personnel of small and medium enterprises, representatives of industry associations and the national authorities/ governmental institutions of State Parties with developing economies or economies in transition regarding process safety and security management practices.

Activities

1. Analytical skills development courses

These courses take place over two weeks, during which participants receive theoretical training and hands-on experience in GC and GC-MS. Topics covered include: hardware; system validation and optimisation; troubleshooting; preparation of environmental samples; and GC/GC-MS analyses of such samples for chemicals related to the CWC. Participants also receive intensive hands-on training in the preparation of different sample matrices to be analysed by GC with element-selective detectors and by GC-MS in electron impact and chemical-ionisation modes. Finally, participants are introduced to a range of extraction, clean-up, and derivatisation procedures. The courses are implemented with the support of Verifin, renowned institution selected through a transparent tender process, with which OPCW has entered into a five-year agreement.

2. Industry Outreach —Chemical Safety and Security Management Workshops

These workshops are conducted over two-and-a-half days. They cover, inter alia, safety and security issues in chemical industry, chemical management strategies, chemical-process safety management, industry best practices and an introduction to Responsible Care®.

An overview of the CWC and of international cooperation programmes is also presented at the opening session. Cooperation and coordination will be ensured with other actors with experience in this area, as appropriate.

One workshop will be addressed to the North Africa, Middle East and Gulf sub-regions and will take place in Arabic.

Project III — Science and technology

Objectives

To enable the Director-General of the OPCW ('Director General') to provide advice and make recommendations to the Conference of State Parties, the Executive Council of the OPCW or the State Parties on areas of science and technology relevant to the CWC.

Purposes

- Setting the direction for science and technology related activities at the OPCW in the interim period between the Fourth and Fifth Review Conferences-
- To enable the Director-General to render special advice to the OPCW policymaking organs and to the State Parties in the areas of science and technology relevant to the CWC
- To draw upon a larger pool of scientific experts available for the OPCW, and improved mechanisms for keeping aware of developments in chemical monitoring technologies and informatics tools for analysis of complex data sets containing chemical information
- Building and maintaining a network of non-technical stakeholders who can compliment scientific experts available to the OPCW in assessing all aspects of new science and technology to provide more complete advice on science and technology and its impact
- To enable a number of off-site laboratories to analyse toxins in support of the CWC.

Results

- Expanding network of scientific expertise available to OPCW that will enhance ongoing science and technology monitoring efforts and increase presence and visibility of the CWC in the scientific community
- Relationships with scientific expertise involved in new science and technology development relevant to the CWC built and maintained
- Creation of opportunities to bring non-technical stakeholders into productive discussions regarding science and technology development with technical experts for assessment of security impact and risk
- Advice and recommendations on areas of science and technology relevant to the CWC produced by the OPCW' s Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) and received by State Parties
- Raised awareness of the need for the analysis of toxins relevant to the CWC.

Activities

1. Chemical informatics for facilitating international collaboration

This activity aims at creating a working group of scientists to collaboratively source, collate, and analyse data with unique chemical signatures. It seeks to compile data collected from a broad range of routine chemical monitoring activities that contain chemical signatures (e.g. data collected from atmospheric monitoring, environmental sample collection, water testing, and more). The intent is to connect chemical and information scientists from different regions of the world to create a hub in which the information can be disseminated to the collaborators for visualisation and informative analysis of global and regional chemistry. This work is intended to facilitate engagement of the Technical Secretariat with the scientific community. Main output will be a data collation centre serving as a

hub for collating and reducing data into formats compatible with the analytical tools used by the collaborating researchers. The hub, located in one of the participating universities, will support the network of collaborating scientists and build its capacity to expand beyond the implementation period.

2. Assessment of developments in science and technology

A series of expert workshops — involving members of the SAB, experts associate with the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry, and other experts — to assess the impact of current and potential future developments in science and technology on the implementation of the CWC.

This work will support the SAB in developing their report on developments in science and technology for the Fourth Review Conference of the CWC.

Possible partnerships with other International Organisations to implement this activity will be explored.

3. Multiple uses of chemistry: understanding the security aspects of technology developments

A series of workshops for regional centres of excellence and university departments which are involved in WMD security issues. The purpose is to help those who are concerned about implications of technology developments to understand the process by which technologies are conceived, developed, adapted, and brought to life.

Workshop attendees will gain skills and understanding of:

- converging scientific disciplines (especially, but not limited to, the convergence between chemistry and biology), which are a strong enabling force for new technologies and can drive applications and approaches in general technology development,
- best practices for technology monitoring,
- how to better assess risks of new and changing technologies, and
- how to recognise how the adaptation of new technologies is a critical aspect of effective security management.

This work will create more insight into how science and technology support effective implementation of multilateral security and WMD treaties — using the CWC as an example.

4. Temporary Working Groups (TWGs) of the SAB

Support meetings of the TWGs, which will enable to the SAB to render specialised technical advice to the Director-General on the implementation of the CWC. This will in turn enable the Director-General to advise the policymaking organs and State Parties on policy matters, underpinned by sound scientific advice.

5. Toward the development of standardised analytical methods for the analysis of biological toxins

Biological toxins are regulated under the Biological Weapons Convention ('BWC'). Two biological toxins (ricin and saxitoxin) are also listed in the CWC as chemical weapons and are closely regulated. Other biological toxins may also fall under the CWC's general purpose criteria against the use of toxic agents in warfare.

The robust verification regime of the CWC is absent in the BWC. Under the CWC, inspectors are empowered to take samples and perform on-site analysis (if possible; often not possible for biological toxins) or send them to off-site laboratories. Off-site laboratory analysis requires sophisticated analytical equipment as well as methods and either reference materials or data.

For this project, the OPCW Laboratory and partner laboratories will:

- prepare/acquire reference materials,
- conduct round-robin exercises,
- write and validate recommended operating procedures (ROPs) for the analysis of biological toxins,
- collect reference data from partner laboratories,

- share ROPs and reference data with partner laboratories and the scientific community,
- evaluate analytical procedures/detection kits that can be used on-site to guide decisions on off-site analysis and as a protective component for inspectors on-site.

Project IV — Preparedness of State Parties to prevent and respond to attacks involving chemicals

Objectives

Contribute to developing the capacity of State Parties in the prevention of, preparedness for and response to a terrorist attack using chemical weapons and to improve their response to requests for assistance in the event of the use or threat of use of chemicals.

Purposes

- Enhance State Parties' awareness of the importance of submitting timely and full declarations on national programmes related to protective purposes
- Increase State Parties' contribution to the preparedness of OPCW to respond to requests for assistance
- Encourage State Parties to foster the creation of regional networks in their regions or sub-regions to improve their coordinated response to a chemical weapons attack
- Encourage State Parties to establish coordination and cooperation between the sub-regions in the chemical emergency response
- Build the capacity of State Parties to further disseminate knowledge and skills acquired during the training courses
- Exercise and evaluate the national prevention of, preparedness for and response to a chemical incident and to increase awareness of further steps to be taken to enhance the level of preparedness
- Exercise and evaluate the coordination of the international community in the prevention and response to a chemical incident.

Results

- Pre-conditions for the formation of a regional network of emergency response personnel created
- State Parties are aware of the importance of submitting timely and full declarations on national programmes related to protective purposes
- State Parties are better positioned to make offers of assistance to the OPCW in response to a request of assistance
- Increased awareness of State Parties regarding the need to promote cooperation in relation to chemical weapons emergencies in case of an attack
- A team of instructors from Central Asian State Parties that can support the chemical emergency response plan by training their first responders
- Enhanced emergency response plans for handling incidents involving toxic chemicals of the implicated State Parties by incorporating the transfer of knowledge and practices.

Activities

1. Regional Assistance and Protection Training

A full-cycle training package for Central Asian State Parties to include Basic and Advanced training courses in Assistance and Protection. The courses would be followed by a confirmatory exercise where participants would use the knowledge acquired in a practical, field training scenario. This training cycle will result in increased resilience against and improved national and regional capacity to respond to the misuse of toxic chemicals. The first responders from the region who will benefit from this training, will be subsequently considered for OPCW-funded 'train-the-trainer' courses to assist them in the further dissemination of the knowledge and skills acquired.

2. Regional Coordination Exercise on Assistance Delivery

In line with paragraph 7 of Article X of the CWC, the proposed exercise is a follow-up of the Assistance Coordination workshop held in Argentina in October 2013 and will be aimed at testing delivery assistance mechanisms between two or three State Parties from the Latin America region that share the same border, and will include participation with diverse tasks, of the rest of the State Parties from the region.

3. Regional Assistance and Protection Workshops

Support for this activity has been provided under Decision 2009/569/CFSP, and Decision 2012/166/CFSP. This activity is designed as a forum for managers and planners who are involved in the protection of their civilian populations against chemical weapons, or who would be responsible for the provision of emergency assistance under Article X of the CWC. Workshops provide information on the implementation of Article X; national and international projects being carried out by the OPCW, regional approaches to assistance and protection, and challenges and new opportunities in the field of assistance and protection against chemical weapons and other toxic chemicals. Furthermore, they are intended to foster discussion and analysis of several assistance and protection-related issues, with special focus on areas such as rights and obligations of State Parties under Article X of the CWC, submissions of declarations of protective programmes, and analysis of weaknesses and problem areas. They also provide an overview of assistance and protection activities in the concerned region. Participants give presentations in order to share experiences, lessons learnt, and ideas in the field of assistance and protection and emergency response against threats related to misuse of toxic chemicals. Targeted regions will be Latin America and Asia.

4. Table Top Exercises

Support for this activity has been provided under Decision 2009/569/CFSP, and Decision 2012/166/CFSP. The project Table Top Exercises is a follow-up and builds on the lessons learnt from the Table Top exercise (TTX) held in August 2013 in Indonesia (funded under Decision 2012/166/CFSP). One of the results of the exercise was development of the TTX module that can be used for capacity-building activities in other regions. The exercises will examine cross-government decision-making, and promote information exchange and provision of assistance between relevant national and international organisations in order to mitigate the risks and the impact of an attack with toxic chemicals. The project complements other OPCW programmes, in particular those regarding assistance and protection as mandated by Article X of the CWC as well as the OPCW's efforts to support State Parties in the adoption of national implementation measures and the project on 'OPCW as a platform for enhancing security at chemical plants' (funded under Decision 2012/166/CFSP). Under the provisions of Article X, State Parties can receive expert advice and assistance from the OPCW regarding the development and improvement of their protective capacity against chemical weapons.

Project V — Universality and outreach

Objectives

- To encourage States not party to the CWC to better understand the benefits of joining the CWC and in getting more involved in OPCW activities
- To raise awareness about the OPCW and CWC, particularly among a broad public audience and certain target groups in the educational sector, such as students and teachers of chemistry and chemical engineering at secondary and tertiary level.

Purposes

- To raise awareness and knowledge of the OPCW and CWC amongst students and teachers and other groups as appropriate
- To raise the visibility of the OPCW and to explain its activities to a broad public audience
- To improve means of reaching to the widest possible audience, especially among the non-technical or non-specialists
- To raise awareness of the OPCW and CWC among a young audience in selected States or regions
- States not party to the CWC get more involved in OPCW activities and increase their understanding of the CWC and its benefits
- To broaden engagement with stakeholders on substantive issues facing the OPCW during a period of institutional transition.

Results

- Dissemination of the educational materials produced by national, regional and international associations and use in schools and universities of the educational materials

- Increased public engagement with the OPCW and CWC through the use of the exhibition at multiple events around the world
- Increased interaction with the OPCW by young audiences in selected States or regions and development of social media tools and their use by OPCW partners
- Ultimate increased number of new State Parties
- Enhanced input by civil society to the OPCW policymaking process, including the opportunity to present their views on substantive issues directly to delegates in special plenary sessions of the Conference of State Parties
- Documentary material, including OPCW corporate video material for all purposes, available for dissemination and sensitisation of the mainstream audience.

Activities

1. Translation and dissemination of education-and-outreach tools and materials

During 2013 and 2014, the Technical Secretariat (supported in part by Decision 2012/166/CFSP) has produced several education and outreach tools in English. In order to maximise the use of such materials by a broad range of stakeholders in as many State Parties as possible, the materials need to be translated into the other five official OPCW languages and into other widely-spoken languages. The translated materials will also need to be widely disseminated.

2. Production of an OPCW exhibition

Production of a professional exhibition on the OPCW and CWC for use at relevant meetings, conferences, etc., in collaboration with science and peace museums. Some work has already been carried out by the OPCW together with the Nobel Peace Centre, Museon in The Hague and others but, under this project, a professionally-designed exhibition will be produced, for reuse by the OPCW as necessary.

3. Youth outreach

Outreach workshops aimed at young audiences (age 15-25) to both raise awareness of OPCW and the CWC and to engage youth in exploring opportunities for future careers in fields and sectors on the international level. This will involve face-to-face workshops and development of social media tools that can be used by regional partners and universities.

4. Universality facilitation for non-State Parties to join the CWC

Universality work plan includes: concept: tailor-made approach, State-specific, flexible format (1.5 to 2.0 track), inviting in and reaching out, multi partnership; sponsorship for OPCW activities, at OPCW headquarters or elsewhere; State-specific seminars; regional approach; track 2.0 events; database for State contact and development for coordination.

5. Support for NGO participation in OPCW activities

The number of NGOs that have registered for and attended OPCW conferences has grown steadily and significantly since 2008, peaking with the 3rd Review Conference in April 2013 when 70 NGOs representing all regions were approved to attend. In addition, for the first time ever, NGOs actively participated in OPCW conferences by addressing delegates in special plenary sessions of the 3rd Review Conference and the 18th Conference of States Party. This proposal will provide basic travel and lodging support for NGO representatives from States with developing economies or economies in transition to attend each of the Conferences of State Parties in 2015 and 2016.

6. Support for development and promotion of 'Fires' video documentary series

The *Fires* project has been developed by the Media and Public Affairs branch of the OPCW. They produced four episodes running in length from 5 to 20 min each, including the original episode *A Teacher's Mission* which was strongly endorsed by the SAB Temporary Working group on Education and Outreach of the OPCW as an effective

teaching tool. The latest episode, *Ich Liebe Dich*, has generated even more enthusiasm among stakeholders for the project, with expressions of material support and collaboration in producing future episodes from several State Parties. The Union funding will ensure the production of at least three further episodes.

Project VI — Africa Programme

Objective

To enhance the capacity of African State Parties in fulfilling their obligations under the CWC.

Purposes

Purpose 1 (National implementation):

- Enhanced capacity of African State Parties for effective national implementation
- Increased number of African State Parties able to conduct effective national implementation at quantitative and qualitative level
- Enhanced understanding and awareness of National Authorities of African State Parties on CWC-related matters for good cooperation and support
- Effective function of custom authorities in control and monitoring of the chemical trade
- Strengthened inter-agency collaboration in support of effective national implementation of the CWC under the leadership of the National Authority.

Purpose 2 (Peaceful use of chemistry):

- Enhancing the capacity of publicly funded laboratories in African State Parties whose economies are developing or in transition to implement the CWC in the field of peaceful uses of chemistry
- Enhancing chemical safety management approaches in chemical industry enterprises of small and medium size in African State Parties whose economies are developing or in transition.

Results

Results 1 (National implementation)

- Relevant stakeholders have improved understanding and awareness on the CWC and have enhanced their role and involvement in national implementation efforts
- Customs Officials from African State Parties have improved their understanding and ability for effective handling of the duties regarding import/export of scheduled chemicals and coordination with National Authorities
- Relevant stakeholders have correct and up-to-date information for effective learning available
- Potential stakeholder agencies/bodies in supporting the implementation of the CWC have agreed on a short-term agenda to establish synergies between themselves.

Results 2 (Peaceful use of chemistry)

- Publicly funded laboratories in African State Parties have enhanced level of technical competence to analyse chemicals related to national implementation of the CWC and in the peaceful application of chemistry using modern analytical methods especially GC and GC-MS
- Personnel of small and medium enterprises, representatives of industry associations and the national authorities/governmental institutions of African State Parties have upgraded levels of competence and understanding regarding process safety management practices.

Activities

1. Regional National Authority Stakeholders Forum

National Authorities have specific and important roles and responsibilities for effective implementation. They have to develop and maintain very close and good cooperation with other concerned stakeholders at the State level. The cooperation is not always effective as there are still gaps and lack of good understanding among each other. The proposed Regional Stakeholder Forum aims at bringing together the key stakeholders and the National Authorities representatives to meet, know and understand each other better. It will also provide a good opportunity to share experiences and exchange views and concerns for effective cooperation. This is proposed as a pilot for the African region.

2. Regional Training Course for Customs Authorities of State Parties on Technical Aspects of the CWC's Transfers' Regime

Support for customs officials has been provided under Joint Action 2005/913/CFSP, Joint Action 2007/185/CFSP, Decision 2009/569/CFSP and Decision 2012/166/CFSP. On the basis of experience gained, outreach to customs officials through training courses will be undertaken with a view to improving the collection and transmission of data on imports and exports of scheduled chemicals to national authorities. Training undertaken will offer practical hands-on demonstrations and exercises and will incorporate an element covering 'train the trainers'. The training will be carried out by the Technical Secretariat's Implementation Support Branch with technical expertise from the Declarations Branch in the African region.

3. Provision of Academic/Informative Materials on CWC

To promote understanding and awareness of CWC in an African State Party, informative materials will be prepared and provided to the library of universities' chemistry departments through the relevant National Authorities. In its first phase, the activity will aim at providing information, but the second phase will lead to the introduction of the CWC in the training/teaching curriculum of the universities. It is proposed to be a pilot in the African region.

4. Synergies and Partnership for effective implementation

The activity aims at promoting engagement of the potential stakeholder agencies/bodies in supporting the implementation of the CWC. These are regional/sub-regional training institutions for military, customs training institutions, relevant laboratories, academic institutions, NGOs and community-based organisations. After having identified the State Party which will pilot the project, collaborative action will be developed and implemented. A multi-sector national event organised by the piloting National Authority for all key stakeholder agencies/bodies/institutions, which by virtue of their national mandates have a role to play in the national implementation of the CWC, is proposed as a pilot for the African region.

5. Analytical skills development courses

These courses take place over two weeks, during which participants receive theoretical training and hands-on experience in GC and GC-MS. Topics covered include: hardware; system validation and optimisation; troubleshooting; preparation of environmental samples; and GC/GC-MS analyses of such samples for chemicals related to the CWC. Participants also receive intensive hands-on training in the preparation of different sample matrices to be analysed by GC with element-selective detectors and by GC-MS in electron impact and chemical-ionisation modes. Finally, participants are introduced to a range of extraction, clean-up, and derivatisation procedures. The courses are implemented with the support of Verifin, a renowned institution selected through a transparent tender process, with which OPCW has entered into a five-year agreement.

6. Industry Outreach — CWC and Chemical Process Safety Workshops

These workshops are conducted over two-and-a-half days. They cover, inter alia, safety and security issues in the chemical industry; chemical management strategies; chemical-process safety management; industry best practices; and an introduction to Responsible Care®.

An overview of the CWC and of international cooperation programmes is also presented at the opening session.

COUNCIL DECISION (CFSP) 2015/260
of 17 February 2015
extending the mandate of the European Union Special Representative for Human Rights

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty on European Union, and in particular Article 33 and Article 31(2) thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy,

Whereas:

- (1) On 25 June 2012, the Council adopted the EU Strategic Framework on Human Rights and Democracy and the EU Action Plan on Human Rights and Democracy.
- (2) On 25 July 2012, the Council adopted Decision 2012/440/CFSP ⁽¹⁾ appointing Mr Stavros LAMBRINIDIS as the European Union Special Representative (EUSR) for Human Rights. The EUSR mandate has been extended by Council Decision 2014/385/CFSP ⁽²⁾ and is to expire on 28 February 2015.
- (3) The mandate of the EUSR should be extended for a further period of 24 months,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

European Union Special Representative

The mandate of Mr Stavros LAMBRINIDIS as the EUSR for Human Rights is extended until 28 February 2017. The Council may decide that the mandate of the EUSR be terminated earlier, based on an assessment by the Political and Security Committee (PSC) and a proposal from the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy (HR).

Article 2

Policy objectives

The mandate of the EUSR shall be based on the policy objectives of the Union regarding human rights as set out in the Treaty on European Union, the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union as well as the EU Strategic Framework on Human Rights and Democracy and the EU Action Plan on Human Rights and Democracy:

- (a) enhancing the Union's effectiveness, presence and visibility in protecting and promoting human rights in the world, notably by deepening Union cooperation and political dialogue with third countries, relevant partners, business, civil society and international and regional organisations; and through action in relevant international forums;
- (b) enhancing the Union's contribution to strengthening democracy and institution building, the rule of law, good governance, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms worldwide;
- (c) improving the coherence of Union action on human rights and the integration of human rights in all areas of the Union's external action.

Article 3

Mandate

In order to achieve the policy objectives, the mandate of the EUSR shall be to:

- (a) contribute to the implementation of the Union's human rights policy, in particular the EU Strategic Framework on Human Rights and Democracy and the EU Action Plan on Human Rights and Democracy, including by formulating recommendations in this regard;

⁽¹⁾ Council Decision 2012/440/CFSP of 25 July 2012 appointing the European Union Special Representative for Human Rights (OJ L 200, 27.7.2012, p. 21).

⁽²⁾ Council Decision 2014/385/CFSP of 23 June 2014 extending the mandate of the European Union Special Representative for Human Rights (OJ L 183, 24.6.2014, p. 66).

- (b) contribute to the implementation of Union Guidelines, toolkits and action plans on human rights and international humanitarian law;
- (c) enhance dialogue with governments in third countries and international and regional organisations on human rights as well as with civil society organisations and other relevant actors in order to ensure the effectiveness and the visibility of the Union's human rights policy;
- (d) contribute to better coherence and consistency of the Union policies and actions in the area of protection and promotion of human rights, notably by providing input to the formulation of relevant policies of the Union.

Article 4

Implementation of the mandate

1. The EUSR shall be responsible for the implementation of the mandate, acting under the authority of the HR.
2. The Political and Security Committee (PSC) shall maintain a privileged link with the EUSR and shall be the EUSR's primary point of contact with the Council. The PSC shall provide the EUSR with strategic guidance and political direction within the framework of the mandate, without prejudice to the powers of the HR.
3. The EUSR shall work in full coordination with the European External Action Service (EEAS) and its competent departments in order to ensure coherence and consistency in their respective work in the area of human rights.

Article 5

Financing

1. The financial reference amount intended to cover the expenditure related to the mandate of the EUSR from 1 March 2015 to 29 February 2016 shall be EUR 788 000.
2. The financial reference amount for the subsequent period for the EUSR shall be decided by the Council.
3. The expenditure shall be managed in accordance with the procedures and rules applicable to the general budget of the Union.
4. The management of the expenditure shall be subject to a contract between the EUSR and the Commission. The EUSR shall be accountable to the Commission for all expenditure.

Article 6

Constitution and composition of the team

1. Within the limits of the mandate and the corresponding financial means made available, the EUSR shall be responsible for constituting a team. The team shall include the expertise on specific policy issues as required by the mandate. The EUSR shall keep the Council and the Commission promptly informed of the composition of the team.
2. Member States, the institutions of the Union and the EEAS may propose the secondment of staff to work with the EUSR. The salary of such seconded personnel shall be covered by the Member State, the institution of the Union concerned or the EEAS, respectively. Experts seconded by Member States to the institutions of the Union or the EEAS may also be posted to the EUSR. International contracted staff shall have the nationality of a Member State.
3. All seconded personnel shall remain under the administrative authority of the sending Member State, institution of the Union or the EEAS, and shall carry out their duties and act in the interest of the mandate of the EUSR.
4. The EUSR staff shall be co-located with the relevant EEAS departments or Union delegations in order to ensure coherence and consistency of their respective activities.

Article 7

Security of EU classified information

The EUSR and the members of his team shall respect the security principles and minimum standards established by Council Decision 2013/488/EU ⁽¹⁾.

⁽¹⁾ Council Decision 2013/488/EU of 23 September 2013 on the security rules for protecting EU classified information (OJ L 274, 15.10.2013, p. 1).

*Article 8***Access to information and logistical support**

1. Member States, the Commission, the EEAS and the General Secretariat of the Council shall ensure that the EUSR is given access to any relevant information
2. The Union delegations and the diplomatic representations of Member States, as appropriate, shall provide logistical support to the EUSR.

*Article 9***Security**

In accordance with the Union's policy on the security of personnel deployed outside the Union in an operational capacity under Title V of the Treaty, the EUSR shall take all reasonably practicable measures, in conformity with the mandate and on the basis of the security situation in the relevant country, for the security of all personnel under the EUSR's direct authority, in particular by:

- (a) establishing a specific security plan based on guidance from the EEAS, including specific physical, organisational and procedural security measures, governing management of the secure movement of personnel to, and within, the geographic area, as well as management of security incidents and a mission contingency and evacuation plan;
- (b) ensuring that all personnel deployed outside the Union are covered by high risk insurance as required by the conditions in the geographic area;
- (c) ensuring that all members of the EUSR's team to be deployed outside the Union, including locally contracted personnel, have received appropriate security training before or upon arriving in the geographic area, based on the risk ratings assigned to that area;
- (d) ensuring that all agreed recommendations made following regular security assessments are implemented, and providing the HR, the Council and the Commission with written reports on their implementation and on other security issues within the framework of the progress and mandate implementation reports.

*Article 10***Reporting**

The EUSR shall regularly provide the HR and the PSC with reports. The EUSR shall also report to Council working parties, in particular the Working Party on Human Rights, as necessary. Regular reports shall be circulated through the COREU network. The EUSR may provide the Foreign Affairs Council with reports. In accordance with Article 36 of the Treaty, the EUSR may be involved in briefing the European Parliament.

*Article 11***Coordination**

1. The EUSR shall contribute to the unity, consistency and effectiveness of the Union's action and shall help ensure that all Union instruments and Member States' actions are engaged consistently, to attain the Union's policy objectives. The EUSR shall work in coordination with the Member States and the Commission, as well as other European Union Special Representatives, as appropriate. The EUSR shall provide regular briefings to Member States' missions and Union delegations.
2. In the field, close liaison shall be maintained with the Heads of Union delegations, Member States' Heads of Mission, as well as with Heads or Commanders of Common Security and Defence Policy missions and operations and other European Union Special Representatives as appropriate, who shall make best efforts to assist the EUSR in the implementation of the mandate.
3. The EUSR shall also liaise and seek complementarity and synergies with other international and regional actors at Headquarters level and in the field. The EUSR shall seek regular contacts with civil society organisations both at Headquarters and in the field.

*Article 12***Review**

The implementation of this Decision and its consistency with other contributions from the Union to the region shall be kept under regular review. The EUSR shall present the HR, the Council and the Commission with regular progress reports and a comprehensive mandate implementation report by the end of November 2016.

*Article 13***Entry into force**

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

It shall apply from 1 March 2015.

Done at Brussels, 17 February 2015.

For the Council
The President
J. REIRS

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