



Brussels, 12.10.2016
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Proposal for a

COUNCIL DECISION

on the Union position to be taken in the European Union/Switzerland GNSS Committee established by the Cooperation Agreement between the European Union and its Member States, of the one part, and the Swiss Confederation, of the other, on the European Satellite Navigation Programmes

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

1. CONTEXT OF THE PROPOSAL

The attached proposal constitutes the legal instrument for authorising the Union position to be taken in the European Union/Switzerland GNSS Committee ("Joint Committee") established by the Cooperation Agreement between the European Union and its Member States, of the one part, and the Swiss Confederation, of the other, on the European Satellite Navigation Programmes (the "Agreement").

On 23 September 2013, the Council adopted its decision on the signing, on behalf of the European Union and provisional application of certain provisions of the Agreement.

Subsequently, the Agreement was signed in Brussels on 18 December 2013 in the margins of the Council of the European Union. In accordance with Article 27(2) of the Agreement, it is applied provisionally from 1 January 2014.

Switzerland has ratified the Agreement on 7 July 2015, while at EU level the ratification is ongoing.

The Agreement established a European Union/Switzerland GNSS Committee for the management and proper application of this Agreement. The Joint Committee has to adopt its rules of procedure.

2. RESULTS OF THE NEGOTIATIONS

Article 20(2) of the Agreement provides that the Joint Committee adopts its rules of procedure which shall contain, inter alia, provisions on the convening of meetings, the appointment of the chairman and the latter's term of office.

The attached draft rules are the result of negotiations with Switzerland.

3. LEGAL ELEMENTS OF THE PROPOSAL

The legal basis for authorising the Union position to be taken in the Joint Committee established by the Cooperation Agreement is Article 172 in conjunction with Article 218(9) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union.

In light of the above-mentioned negotiations the European Commission proposes that the Council adopt the Decision authorising the Union position to be taken in the Joint Committee in relation to its rules of procedure.

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THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, and in particular the first paragraph of Article 172 in conjunction with Article 218(9) thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the European Commission,

Whereas:

- (1) The Cooperation Agreement between the European Union and its Member States, of the one part, and the Swiss Confederation, of the other, on the European Satellite Navigation Programmes ("the Agreement") applies provisionally as of 1 January 2014.
- (2) Article 20 of the Agreement establishes a Joint Committee known as the "European Union/Switzerland GNSS Committee" ("the Joint Committee") and provides that this Committee should establish its rules of procedure.
- (3) It is therefore appropriate to determine the Union position in relation to the rules of procedure to be adopted by the Joint Committee.

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

1. The position to be taken by the Union within the Joint Committee established by the Cooperation Agreement between the European Union and its Member States, of the one part, and the Swiss Confederation, of the other, on the European Satellite Navigation Programmes in relation to the adoption of the rules of procedure of the Joint Committee shall be based on the draft Decision attached to this Decision.
2. Minor changes to the draft decision may be agreed to by the representatives of the Union in the Joint Committee without further decision of the Council.

Article 2

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

Done at Brussels,

For the Council
The President