



Brussels, 22.9.2020  
COM(2020) 576 final

ANNEX

**ANNEX**

**to the**

**Proposal for a Council Decision**

**on the signing, on behalf of the European Union, and provisional application of the Agreement amending the Interim Partnership Agreement between the European Community, of the one part, and the Pacific States, of the other part, as regards the accessions of the Independent State of Samoa and the Solomon Islands, and of future accessions of other Pacific Island States**

## **AGREEMENT**

### **amending the Interim Partnership Agreement between the European Community, of the one part, and the Pacific States, of the other part, as regards the accessions of the Independent State of Samoa and the Solomon Islands, and of future accessions of other Pacific Island States**

THE EUROPEAN UNION,

of the one part, and

THE REPUBLIC OF FIJI (hereinafter referred to as ‘Fiji’),

THE INDEPENDENT STATE OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA (hereinafter referred to as ‘Papua New Guinea’),

THE INDEPENDENT STATE OF SAMOA (hereinafter referred to as ‘Samoa’), and

THE SOLOMON ISLANDS (hereinafter referred to as ‘Solomon Islands’),

hereinafter also referred to as the ‘Pacific States’,

of the other part,

HAVING REGARD TO the Interim Partnership Agreement between the European Community, of the one part, and the Pacific States, of the other part<sup>1</sup> (the ‘Interim Partnership Agreement’), which establishes a framework for an Economic Partnership Agreement, signed in London on 30 July 2009 and provisionally applied between the European Union and Papua New Guinea since 20 December 2009 and between the European Union and Fiji since 28 July 2014;

HAVING REGARD TO the fact that Article 80 of the Interim Partnership Agreement provides that other Pacific Islands may accede to the Agreement on the basis of the submission of a GATT 1994 Article XXIV compliant market access offer;

HAVING REGARD TO the fact that, by depositing their acts of accession, Samoa and Solomon Islands acceded to the Interim Partnership Agreement on 21 December 2018 and 7 May 2020, respectively, and thus have become Contracting Parties to the Agreement;

HAVING REGARD TO the fact that the Interim Partnership Agreement applies provisionally between the European Union and Samoa as of 31 December 2018, and between the European Union and Solomon Islands as of 17 May 2020;

HAVING REGARD TO the recommendation of 4 October 2019 of the Trade Committee established by the Interim Partnership Agreement concerning the amendments to be made to thereto in order to take account of the accession of Pacific Island States to the Interim Partnership Agreement;

REAFFIRMING their commitment to the implementation of Interim Partnership Agreement, and desiring to work together towards the achievement of the objectives of the Agreement;

DESIRING to facilitate the accession of other Pacific Island States to the Interim Partnership Agreement and to extend to them the benefits arising from the Agreement,

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<sup>1</sup> OJ L 272, 16.10.2009, p. 2.

HAVE DECIDED TO CONCLUDE THIS AGREEMENT:

*Article 1*

**Amendment to the Interim Partnership Agreement**

The Interim Partnership Agreement between the European Community, of the one part, and the Pacific States, of the other part, is amended as follows:

1. In Article 70, paragraph 1 is replaced by the following:
  - '1. For the purposes of this Agreement, the 'Contracting Parties' shall be the European Community, referred to as the 'EC Party', on the one part, Papua New Guinea, the Republic of Fiji, the Independent State of Samoa and the Solomon Islands, referred to as the 'Pacific States', on the other part.'
2. In Article 80, the following paragraph 3 is added:
  - '3. The Trade Committee may decide on any amendment to the Agreement that might be necessary following the accession of another Pacific Island State.'

*Article 2*

**Entry into force**

1. This Agreement shall enter into force under the same conditions provided for in Article 76(1) of the Interim Partnership Agreement.
2. This Agreement shall be applied provisionally under the same conditions provided for in Article 76(2) of the Interim Partnership Agreement.

*Article 3*

**Authentic texts**

This Agreement shall be drawn up in duplicate in the Bulgarian, Croatian, Czech, Danish, Dutch, English, Estonian, Finnish, French, German, Greek, Hungarian, Italian, Latvian, Lithuanian, Maltese, Polish, Portuguese, Romanian, Slovak, Slovenian, Spanish and Swedish languages, each of these texts being equally authentic.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned Plenipotentiaries, duly authorised to this effect, have signed this Agreement.

Done at [city] on [date].

For the European Union

For the Republic of Fiji

For the Independent State of Papua New Guinea

For the Independent State of Samoa

For the Solomon Islands