

Procedure file

Basic information		
AVC - Assent procedure (historic)	1999/0109(AVC)	Procedure completed
EC/Switzerland agreement: mutual recognition to conformity assesment MRA		
Subject 2.10.03 Standardisation, EC/EU standards and trade mark, certification, compliance 6.40.01 Relations with EEA/EFTA countries		
Geographical area Switzerland		

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	ITRE Industry, External Trade, Research, Energy		14/10/1999
		PSE CARRARO Massimo	
	Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
	BUDG Budgets		
	JURI Legal Affairs and Internal Market		30/11/1999
		PPE-DE PALACIO VALLELERSUNDI Ana	
Council of the European Union	Council configuration	Meeting	Date
	Justice and Home Affairs (JHA)	2411	04/04/2002
	General Affairs	2192	21/06/1999
European Commission	Commission DG	Commissioner	
	External Relations		

Key events			
04/05/1999	Initial legislative proposal published	COM(1999)0229	Summary
13/04/2000	Legislative proposal published	09755/1999	Summary
14/04/2000	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
19/04/2000	Vote in committee		Summary
19/04/2000	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading	A5-0118/2000	
03/05/2000	Debate in Parliament		

04/05/2000	Decision by Parliament	T5-0195/2000	Summary
04/04/2002	Act adopted by Council after consultation of Parliament		
04/04/2002	End of procedure in Parliament		
30/04/2002	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	1999/0109(AVC)
Procedure type	AVC - Assent procedure (historic)
Procedure subtype	International agreement
Legal basis	EC Treaty (after Amsterdam) EC 300-p2-a1; EC Treaty (after Amsterdam) EC 300-p4; EC Treaty (after Amsterdam) EC 133; EC Treaty (after Amsterdam) EC 300-p3-a2
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	ITRE/5/12686

Documentation gateway

Initial legislative proposal		COM(1999)0229	04/05/1999	EC	Summary
Supplementary legislative basic document		07260/2000	03/04/2000	CSL	Summary
Legislative proposal		09755/1999	13/04/2000	CSL	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading		A5-0118/2000 OJ C 041 07.02.2001, p. 0005	19/04/2000	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading		T5-0195/2000 OJ C 041 07.02.2001, p. 0025-0043	04/05/2000	EP	Summary
Implementing legislative act		22002A0430 OJ L 114 30.04.2002, p. 0006-0072	05/04/2002	EU	
Implementing legislative act		32003D0154 OJ L 068 12.03.2003, p. 0001-0039	08/01/2003	EU	

Additional information

European Commission	EUR-Lex
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Final act

Decision 2002/309 OJ L 114 30.04.2002, p. 0001	Summary
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EC/Switzerland agreement: mutual recognition to conformity assesment MRA

PURPOSE: conclusion of an agreement with Switzerland on the mutual recognition of conformity assessment. **CONTENT:** In the context of the overall package of liberalisation agreements negotiated with Switzerland and initialled by the parties on 26.02.1999, the Commission is proposing an agreement in the area of mutual recognition of conformity assessment. The approach advocated by the Commission is a 'global' one integrating in each of the 7 agreements a common clause regarding simultaneous entry into force (this is to avoid that the referendum process in Switzerland applicable to the approval of these agreements does not give rise to a partial application of the agreements). The Agreement provides for the reciprocal acceptance of testing, certification and approval of products by each Party against the regulatory

requirements of the other Party or those of the same Party where deemed equivalent. Products can therefore be certified by recognised Conformity Assessment Bodies (CABs) in the EU and placed on the Swiss market without having to undergo any further approval procedures, and vice versa. The MRA thus reduces the costs and time associated with obtaining product approvals, and will facilitate market access. The sectors covered by the Agreement are machinery, personal protective equipment, toys, medical devices, gas appliances and boilers, pressure vessels, telecommunications terminal equipment, equipment and systems intended for use in potentially explosive atmospheres (ATEX), electrical equipment and electromagnetic compatibility, construction plant and equipment, measuring instruments, motor vehicles, agricultural and forestry tractors, good laboratory practice (GLP) for chemicals and medicinal products (GMP) inspection and batch certification. The Commission considers that the initialled MRA fully meets the Council's negotiating directives and mandate, and will bring benefits for Community producers and exporters, and other regulatory benefits. As regards institutional aspects, provision is made for the establishment of a committee to ensure good implementation and management of the Agreement.?

EC/Switzerland agreement: mutual recognition to conformity assesment MRA

On 3 April 2000, the Council presented the single and consolidated legislative instrument with the purpose of the approval of 7 agreements between the Community and its Member States, on the one hand, and the Swiss Confederation, on the other. This proposal for a decision integrates within a single legal instrument the 7 proposals for decision previously presented by the Commission by introducing the required amended text and procedures with a view to the proper implementation of the various agreements in question. The Council decision specifies the internal procedures for the proper operation of each of the agreements: in this context, certain tasks will be accorded to joint committees set up by the agreements (in particular, competence for the amendment of certain aspects of their sectorial annexes). The Commission would be enabled to proceed with necessary technical amendments and to adopt appropriate decisions for the implementation of the agreements. In specific cases, the Council will reserve the right to itself determine the Community's position upon proposal from the Commission (in particular, in the area of the free movement of persons). With the exception of the agreement on the free movement of persons which requires ratification by national parliaments and the European Parliament, the agreements will have to be ratified by the European Parliament because they fall within Community competence. As all the agreements were negotiated together, they will be concluded and will enter into force on the same date. There are, therefore, no provisional measures to be taken before the entry into force of the abovementioned agreements. It should be noted that 6 of these agreements are approved in the name of the Community and only one of them (the agreement on scientific and technological cooperation) is approved in the name of the European Community and EURATOM.?

EC/Switzerland agreement: mutual recognition to conformity assesment MRA

The Council presented a consolidated version of the agreement on the mutual recognition in relation to conformity assessment between the Community and Switzerland, that also includes the final act and the signatures of all of the contracting parties. It should be recalled that this agreement provides for the reciprocal acceptance of tests, certification and approval of products by each party on the basis of the regulatory provisions of the other party or measures of the same party once these are judged to be equivalent. Products may from now on be certified by conformity assessment organisations recognised in the European Union and be placed on the Swiss market without having to undergo other certification procedures, and vice versa. The Mutual Recognition Agreement (MRA) thus reduces the costs and the time necessary to obtain the certification of products and will facilitate market access. The sectors covered by the agreement are machines, personal protection equipment, toys, medical instruments, gas systems and boilers, pressure recipients, telecommunications terminals, equipment and systems for use in explosive atmospheres, construction products, measuring instruments, motor vehicles, agricultural tractors and forestry engines, the monitoring of good laboratory practice in production and certification by lot. In the framework of this agreement, a committee will be established in order to ensure the proper implementation and management of the agreement.?

EC/Switzerland agreement: mutual recognition to conformity assesment MRA

The committee adopted the recommendation (under the assent procedure) by Massimo CARRARO (PES, I) proposing that Parliament give its assent to the conclusion of the seven 'package' agreements between the European Community and its Member States and the Swiss Confederation relating to the free movement of persons, air transport, rail and road transport, scientific and technological cooperation, public procurement, agricultural trade and mutual recognition in relation to conformity assessment. The committee felt that the agreements would play a part in adding a new dimension to relations with Switzerland, not only because of their intrinsic importance as agreements but also because they would ensure that relations with Switzerland did not remain stalled.?

EC/Switzerland agreement: mutual recognition to conformity assesment MRA

The European Parliament adopted its resolution drafted by Mr. Massimo CARRARO (PES, Italy) and gave its assent to the conclusion of the Agreement between the European Community and the Swiss Confederation on mutual recognition in relation to conformity assessment between the two parties.?

EC/Switzerland agreement: mutual recognition to conformity assesment MRA

PURPOSE : to conclude 7 Agreements between the European Community and the Swiss Confederation. COMMUNITY MEASURE : Decision 2002/309/EC, Euratom of the Council, and of the Commission as regards the Agreement on scientific and technological co-operation, on the conclusion of seven Agreements with the Swiss Confederation. CONTENT : this decision adopted by the Council and the Commission integrates within a single legal instrument the 7 proposals for decision previously presented by the Commission by introducing the required amended text and procedures with a view to the proper implementation of the various agreements in question. The Council decision specifies the internal procedures for the proper operation of each of the agreements: in this context, certain tasks will be accorded to joint committees

set up by the agreements (in particular, competence for the amendment of certain aspects of their sectorial annexes). The Commission would be enabled to proceed with necessary technical amendments and to adopt appropriate decisions for the implementation of the agreements. In specific cases, the Council will reserve the right to itself determine the Community's position upon proposal from the Commission (in particular, in the area of the free movement of persons). The 7 agreements concern: - Free Movement of Persons (AVC/1999/0103); - Air Transport (AVC/1999/0104); - Carriage of Goods and Passengers by rail and road (AVC/1999/0105); - Trade in agricultural products (AVC/1999/0108); - Mutual recognition in relation to conformity assessment ((AVC/1999/0109); - Certain aspects of Government Procurement (AVC/1999/0107); - Scientific and technological co-operation (AVC/1999/0106). The seven agreements are intimately linked to one another by the requirement that they are to come into force at the same time and that they are to cease to apply at the same time, 6 months after the receipt of a non-renewal or denunciation notice concerning any one of them. It should be noted that only 6 of the agreements has been approved on behalf of the European Community and the remaining one (the agreement on scientific and technological co-operation) has been approved on behalf of the European Community an the European Atomic Energy Community (Euratom). ENTRY INTO FORCE : 04/04/02.?