II

(Acts adopted under the EC Treaty/Euratom Treaty whose publication is not obligatory)

DECISIONS

COUNCIL

COUNCIL DECISION

of 15 September 2008

on the signing and conclusion of the Protocol to the Interim Agreement on trade and trade-related matters between the European Community, of the one part, and the Republic of Albania, of the other part, to take account of the accession of the Republic of Bulgaria and Romania to the European Union

(2008/936/EC)

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community, and in particular Article 133 in conjunction with Article 300(2), first subparagraph, first sentence, and Article 300(3), first subparagraph thereof,

Having regard to the Act of Accession of Bulgaria and Romania and in particular Article 6(2) thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the Commission,

Whereas:

(1) On 23 October 2006 the Council authorised the Commission to open negotiations, on behalf of the Community and its Member States, with the Republic of Albania in order to conclude a Protocol to the Interim Agreement on trade and trade-related matters between the European Community, of the one part, and the Republic of Albania, of the other part, to take account of the accession of the Republic of Bulgaria and Romania to the European Union.

(2) These negotiations have been successfully completed and the Protocol was initialled on 7 January 2008. The Protocol should be concluded on behalf of the Community,

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1

The Protocol to the Interim Agreement on trade and trade-related matters between the European Community, of the one part, and the Republic of Albania, of the other part, to take account of the accession of the Republic of Bulgaria and Romania to the European Union is hereby approved on behalf of the European Community.

The text of the Protocol is attached to this Decision.

Article 2

The President of the Council is hereby authorised to designate the person(s) empowered, on behalf of the European Community, to sign the the Protocol.

Article 3

The President of the Council shall, on behalf of the European Community, deposit the instruments of approval provided for in Article 11 of the Protocol.

Article 4

The Protocol shall be applied on a provisional basis with effect from 1 January 2007.

Done at Brussels, 15 September 2008.

For the Council

The President

B. KOUCHNER