GOMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

COM(74) 1019 final/A Brussels, 28 June 1974

Recommendation for a COUNCIL DECISION

on the opening of negotiations with Marocco and Tunisia with a view to extending the association agreements between the Community and those countries

(submitted to the Council by the Commission)



EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

1. The Association Agreements with Morocco and Tunisia, which were concluded for a period of five years and entered into force on 1 September 1969, expire on 31 August 1974.

The agreements provided for the opening of negotiations as from September 1972 with a view to concluding new agreements on a wider basis.

The negotiations started in July 1973 have not yet finished, but in any case it is obvious that the new agreements will not be able to enter into force on 1 September 1974.

- 2. For this reason the Community should, as soon as possible, conclude with Morocco and Tunisia agreements extending the present Association Agreements until the new agreements enter into force or for a period of one year, whichever is the sooner. Only extension of the agreements would permit the trade achievements of the present agreements to be maintained, their reciprocal character to be preserved and the life and institutions of the two associations to be extended.
- 3. Moreover, in case it is not posssible for the extension agreements, which require negotiation with the associated countries and consultation with the European Parliament before they are concluded, to enter into force as from 1 September 1974, the Commission is also putting before the Council a proposal for a regulation to extend unilaterally the trade arrangements resulting from the present agreements.

In this event the associated countries would be invited to take at the same time any measures required to maintain, on their side, the concessions established in favour of the Community.

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RECOMMENDATION FOR A COUNCIL DECISION ON THE OPENING OF NEGOTIATIONS WITH MOROCCO AND TUNISIA WITH A VIEW TO EXTENDING THE ASSOCIATION AGREEMENTS BETWEEN THE COMMUNITY AND THOSE COUNTRIES

(Presented by the Commission to the Council)



RECOMMENDATION FOR A COUNCIL DECISION ON THE OPENING OF NEGOTIATIONS
WITH MOROCCO AND TUNISIA WITH A VIEW TO EXTENDING THE ASSOCIATION
AGREEMENTS BETWEEN THE COMMUNITY AND THOSE COUNTRIES

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community, and in particular Article 238 thereof;

Having regard to the recommendation of the Commission;

Whereas the Association Agreements with the Kingdom of Morocco and the Tunisian Republic expire on 31 August 1974:

Whereas Article 14(2) of those Agreements provides for the opening of negotiations with a view to concluding new agreements on a wider basis, whereas the negotiations entered into for this purpose have not yet been completed and whereas in any case the new agreements would not be able to enter into force on 1 September 1974;

Whereas, in anticipation of the entry into force of the new agreements, negotiations should be opened with a view to extending the present agreements;

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Sole Article

The Commission is hereby authorized to open negotiations with a view to concluding agreements with the Government of the Kingdom of Morocco/the Government of the Tunisian Republic to extend the present Association Agreements.

It shall conduct these negotiations in accordance with the directives annexed hereto, with the participation of Representatives of the Member States as observers.

ANNEX

The Association Agreements between the Community and the Kingdom of Morocco/the Tunisian Republic would be extended until the entry into force of new agreements on a wider basis or until 31 August 1975, whichever is the sooner.