



GREAT AND GENERAL COUNCIL

SITTING OF 24 January 2014

SUBJECT: Final Decision ensuing from the debate on the Report from the European Commission and the Conclusions of the Council of the European Union concerning the options for the participation of Small States in the Internal Market of the EU

THE GREAT AND GENERAL COUNCIL
in its sitting of 24 January 2014

approves by simple majority, by open ballot

the following Decision:

"The Great and General Council

acknowledges

the "Report, dated 18 November 2013, from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions on EU relations with the Principality of Andorra, the Principality of Monaco and the Republic of San Marino: Options for their participation in the Internal Market" and the "Conclusions of the Council of the European Union, dated 16 December 2013, on EU relations with the Principality of Andorra, the Republic of San Marino and the Principality of Monaco";

and

having heard the Minister of Foreign Affairs on the developments of relations between the Republic of San Marino and the European Union, as well as the following debate,

welcomes

the indications of the European Union - following 2013 consultations with the Governments of the three countries and parallel verifications through specific meetings and the analysis of an ad hoc detailed Questionnaire compiled by the Administrations on their legislation and administrative capacity with respect to the Community acquis - for the negotiation of one or more Association Agreements between the EU and the three countries, whose contents will have to respect both EU requirements and the specificities of the three countries, as the best option for the strengthening of mutual relations;



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is of the opinion that

the choice of one or more multilateral or bilateral Association Agreements should be subject to the assessment and subsequent definition of the issues to be negotiated, as well as of the derogations and safeguards protecting the specificities and sovereignty of the country, and to the identification of the conditions necessary to guarantee the most adequate level of participation of the country in preliminary consultations, as well as in decision-making processes concerning the transposition of the EU acquis;

indicates

that that the negotiations, focusing on the four freedoms and the relevant acquis, should deal, inter alia, with the following issues:

- the political role and European citizenship;*
- the possibility to join cultural and training programmes;*
- the possibility to access European funding instruments and programmes;*
- the competitive development of technological, road and telecommunication infrastructures;*
- autonomous customs management.*

In dealing with the above issues, due account shall be taken of the practical difficulties for a small State like San Marino, so as to achieve a satisfactory European integration that enables to eliminate obstacles preventing businesses and financial operators from accessing the single market on an equal basis with European ones;

recommends

the Government to carry on the process already started with the European Union by identifying, within the Public Administration, the officials to be involved in negotiations according to their specific field of competence, and by rigorously selecting the experts necessary to adopt the most appropriate decisions for the drafting of the Association Agreement with the European Union;



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finally underlines

the need to guarantee, in the process of greater European integration of San Marino, that all political parties and social, economic and professional stakeholders of the country be involved, as well to ensure the adoption of all initiatives necessary to inform citizens, being this an issue of general interest concerning the future of the country, its institutions and the system as a whole."