Council Decision (EU) 2020/276 of 17 February 2020 on the conclusion of the Protocol between the European Union, Iceland and the Kingdom of Norway to the Agreement between the European Community and the Republic of Iceland and the Kingdom of Norway concerning the criteria and mechanisms for establishing the State responsible for examining a request for asylum lodged in a Member State or in Iceland or Norway regarding access to Eurodac for law enforcement purposes

COUNCIL DECISION (EU) 2020/276

of 17 February 2020

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THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, and in particular point (a) of Article 87(2) and point (a) of the first subparagraph of Article 88(2), in conjunction with point (a) of the second subparagraph of Article 218(6) thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the European Commission,

Having regard to the consent of the European Parliament[(1)],

Whereas:

(1) In accordance with Council Decision (EU) 2019/394[(2)], the Protocol between the European Union, Iceland and the Kingdom of Norway to the Agreement between the European Community and the Republic of Iceland and the Kingdom of Norway concerning the criteria and mechanisms for establishing the State responsible for examining a request for asylum lodged in a Member State or in Iceland or Norway regarding access to Eurodac for law enforcement purposes ('the Protocol') was signed on 24 October 2019, subject to its conclusion at a later date.

(2) In order to support and strengthen police cooperation between the competent authorities of the Member States and those of Iceland and Norway for the purpose of prevention, detection and investigation of terrorist offences and other serious criminal offences, the involvement of the Union is required to enable Iceland and Norway to participate in the law-enforcement-related aspects of Eurodac.

(3) The Protocol should be approved.

(4) The United Kingdom and Ireland are bound by Regulation (EU) No 603/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council[(3)] and are therefore taking part in the adoption of this Decision.

Changes to legislation: *There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Council Decision (EU) 2020/276. (See end of Document for details)*

(5) In accordance with Articles 1 and 2 of Protocol No 22 on the position of Denmark, annexed to the Treaty on European Union and to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, Denmark is not taking part in the adoption of this Decision and is not bound by it or subject to its application,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

The Protocol between the European Union, Iceland and the Kingdom of Norway to the Agreement between the European Community and the Republic of Iceland and the Kingdom of Norway concerning the criteria and mechanisms for establishing the State responsible for examining a request for asylum lodged in a Member State or in Iceland or Norway regarding access to Eurodac for law enforcement purposes is hereby approved on behalf of the Union[(4)].

Article 2

The President of the Council shall, on behalf of the Union, give the notification provided for in Article 4(1) of the Protocol.

Article 3

This Decision shall enter into force on the day following that of its publication in the *Official Journal of the European Union.*

Done at Brussels, 17 February 2020.

For the Council

The President

J. BORRELL FONTELLES