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(Acts adopted before 1 December 2009 under the EC Treaty, the EU Treaty and the Euratom Treaty)

COUNCIL DECISION**of 17 November 2009****concerning the conclusion of the Agreement between the Government of the Russian Federation and the European Union on the protection of classified information**

(2010/348/EC)

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1

Having regard to the Treaty on European Union, and in particular Articles 24 and 38 thereof,

The Agreement between the Government of the Russian Federation and the European Union on the protection of classified information is hereby approved on behalf of the European Union.

Having regard to the recommendation from the Presidency,

The text of the Agreement is attached to this Decision.

Article 2

Whereas:

The President of the Council is hereby authorised to designate the person(s) empowered to sign the Agreement in order to bind the European Union ⁽¹⁾.

(1) At its meeting on 27 and 28 November 2003, the Council decided to authorise the Presidency, assisted by the Secretary-General/High Representative ('SG/HR'), to open negotiations in accordance with Articles 24 and 38 of the Treaty on European Union with certain third States in order for the European Union to conclude with each of them an Agreement on security procedures for the exchange of classified information.

Article 3

This Decision shall take effect on the date of its adoption.

(2) Following this authorisation to open negotiations the Presidency, assisted by the SG/HR, negotiated an Agreement with the Government of the Russian Federation on the protection of classified information.

Article 4

This Decision shall be published in the *Official Journal of the European Union*.

(3) The Agreement should be approved,

Done at Brussels, 17 November 2009.

For the Council

The President

C. BILDT

⁽¹⁾ The date of entry into force of the Agreement will be published in the *Official Journal of the European Union* by the General Secretariat of the Council.