

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

# Working Documents

1979 - 1980

3 December 1979

DOCUMENT 1-545/79

## Report

drawn up on behalf of the Committee on External Economic Relations

**on the proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council (Doc. 1-362/79) for a regulation opening a Community tariff quota for frozen buffalo meat falling within subheading 02.01 A II b) 4 bb) 33 of the Common Customs Tariff**

**Rapporteur: Mr H. SCHMITT**

12.3



By letter of 25 September 1979 the President of the Council of the European Communities requested the European Parliament, pursuant to Articles 43 and 113 of the EEC Treaty, for an opinion on the proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council (Doc. 1-362/79) for a regulation opening a Community tariff quota for frozen buffalo meat falling within subheading 02.01 A II b) 4 bb) 33 of the Common Customs Tariff.

On 10 October 1979 the President of the European Parliament referred the proposal to the Committee on External Economic Relations as the committee responsible and to the Committee on Agriculture and the Committee on Budgets for their opinion.

At its meeting of 22 October 1979 the Committee on External Economic Relations appointed Mr Schmitt rapporteur.

The committee considered the draft report at its meeting of 22 November 1979 and adopted the motion for a resolution and explanatory statement with one abstention.

Present: Sir Fred Catherwood, chairman; Mrs Wieczorek-Zeul, first vice-chairman; Mr van Aerssen, second vice-chairman; Mr Seal, third vice-chairman; Mr Schmitt, rapporteur; Mr Bøgh, Mrs Carettoni-Romagnoli, Mrs Kellett-Bowman, Mr Louwes, Mr Majonica, Mr Seeler and Sir John Stewart-Clark.

The opinions of the Committee on Agriculture and the Committee on Budgets are annexed to this report.

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A

The Committee on External Economic Relations hereby submits to the European Parliament the following motion for a resolution, together with explanatory statement:

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

embodying the opinion of the European Parliament on the proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council for a regulation opening a Community tariff quota for frozen buffalo meat falling within subheading 02.01 A II b) 4 bb) 33 of the Common Customs Tariff

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council<sup>1</sup>,
  - having been consulted by the Council pursuant to Articles 43 and 113 of the EEC Treaty (Doc. 1-362/79),
  - having regard to the report of the Committee on External Economic Relations and the opinions of the Committee on Agriculture and the Committee on Budgets (Doc. 1-545/79),
- Approves the Commission's proposal.

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<sup>1</sup> OJ No. C 242, 27.9.1979, p. 8

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

1. Within the framework of the GATT negotiations (Tokyo Round) the Community has reached bilateral agreements with Australia, including an agreement on levy-free imports of 2,250 tonnes of frozen buffalo meat at the tariff rate of 20% referred to in the proposal for a regulation.

The largest consumer of this product is the Federal Republic of Germany.

2. In order to fulfil this undertaking, a corresponding tariff quota is to be opened from 1 October 1979 to 30 September 1980.

The internal implementation procedures are contained in Article 27 of Council Regulation (EEC) 805/68, last amended by Regulation (EEC) No. 425/77 (common organization of the beef market).

3. The concessions made by the Community to Australia for frozen buffalo meat together with other smaller quotas for beef ('Hilton beef') and Cheddar cheese form one package, in return for which Australia is granting reduced customs duties on certain Community industrial goods.

In view of the balanced state of the Community beef market and the importance which the Committee on External Economic Relations attaches to encouraging trade between the Community and Australia<sup>1</sup>, the committee recommends adoption of the proposal for a regulation.

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<sup>1</sup> The Martinelli Report - Doc. 546/78



OPINION OF THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

Draftsman: Mr DAVERN

On 26 September 1979 the Committee on Agriculture appointed Mr Davern draftsman.

It considered the draft opinion at its meeting of 10/11 October 1979 and adopted it by 10 votes to 2 with 2 abstentions.

Present: Sir Henry Plumb, chairman; Mrs Barbarella, Mr Bocklet, Mrs Castle, Mr Clinton, Mr Curry, Mr Dalsass, Mr De Pasquale (deputizing for Mr Papapietro), Mr Diana, Mr Früh, Mr Provan, Miss Quin and Mr Tolman.

## Introduction

1. In the context of the Tokyo Round GATT negotiations, the Community granted certain trade concessions to Australia for buffalo meat, certain types of beef ('Hiltonbeef') and cheddar cheese, in exchange for improved access for certain Community industrial goods on the Australian market.

2. The tariff quota for buffalo meat allows for Australia to export 2,250 tonnes from 1 October 1979 to 30 September 1980 at a duty rate of 20%. The normal rate applied to buffalo meat is 20% customs duties, plus levies.

## Quota distribution

3. The greatest demand for buffalo meat comes from Germany.

4. No information is given, in contradiction to normal practice, concerning how the quota is to be allocated amongst Member States.

## Financial cost

5. As a result of the non-imposition of levies, the tariff quota will result in a reduction of the Community's own resources of 3.3 m EUA:

<u>1979</u>	<u>1980</u>
- 0.6 m EUA	- 2.7 m EUA

## Conclusions

6. The grant of a tariff quota to Australia, in the context of the Tokyo Round, and in return for concessions on industrial goods clearly raises no major problems. The quantities involved are not likely to have any impact on the Community's beef market. Moreover, Australian sources have indicated that in a few years Australia will no longer be in a position to export buffalo meat.

7. At the same time, and while it appreciates the desire of the Commission to be succinct, the Committee on Agriculture finds totally unacceptable the presentation of this proposal which provides no information whatsoever on the allocation of the quota between Member States and the normally applied rates of duty.

8. Finally, the committee would point out that this proposal, while not significant in the terms of the quantities involved, does illustrate the growing complexity of the Community's import regimes. The committee requests that the Commission provide a brief survey of the various import arrangements - trade agreements, GATT concessions, ACP concessions, tariff quotas etc. - applied in the major agricultural, and in particular beef, sectors.

OPINION OF THE COMMITTEE ON BUDGETS

Letter from the chairman to the chairman of the Committee on External  
Economic Relations

Luxembourg, 22 October 1979

Subject: Opinion of the Committee on Budgets on the proposal  
for a regulation opening a Community tariff quota  
for frozen buffalo meat under subheading 02.01.A11b) 4bb) 33  
of the CCT (Doc. COM(79) 464)

The Committee on Budgets, having noted that the loss of revenue  
resulting from implementation of this regulation will be about 2.7 m EUA  
for 1980 has delivered a favourable opinion, however expressing the same  
reservations as for the preceding proposals on the lack of a table  
summarising customs duty losses incurred during the financial year.

(sgd) Erwin LANGE

This opinion was adopted unanimously under the quorum provisions of  
the Rules of Procedure

