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European Communities

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

1980 - 1981

7 July 1980

DOCUMENT 1-285/80

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. 1-34/80) for a regulation amending Regulation (EEC) No 471/76 as regards the period of suspension of the application of the condition on prices governing the importation into the Community of fresh lemons originating in certain Mediterranean countries

Rapporteur: Mr Vincenzo GIUMMARRA

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By letter of 14 March 1980 the President of the Council of the European Communities consulted the European Parliament, pursuant to Articles 43 and 113 of the EEC Treaty on the proposal for a Council regulation (EEC) amending Regulation (EEC) No. 47/76 as regards the period of suspension of the application of the conditions on prices governing the importation into the Community of fresh lemons originating in certain Mediterranean countries.

The President of the European Parliament referred this 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 opinions.

On 6 June 1980 the Committee on External Economic Relations appointed Mr GIUMARRA rapporteur.

It considered this proposal at its meeting of 25 June 1980.

At the same meeting the committee unanimously adopted the motion for a resolution and the explanatory statement with one abstention.

Present: Sir Fred Catherwood, chairman; Mrs Wieczorek-Zeul, first vice-chairman; Mr van Aerssen, second vice-chairman; Dr Seal, third vice-chairman; Mrs Agnelli, Mr Almirante, Mr Bøgh, Mrs Carettoni Romagnoli, Mr Deschamps, Mrs Dienesch, Lord Harmar-Nicholls (deputizing for Mr de Courcy Lurg), Mr Irmer, Mr Kellett-Bowman, Mrs Lenz, Mrs Poirier, Mr Radoux, Mr Seeler, Sir John Stewart-Clark, Mr Welsh.

The opinion of the Committee on Budgets is attached.

The Committee on Agriculture decided not to deliver an opinion.

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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 amending Regulation (EEC) No. 471/76 as regards the period of suspension of the application of the condition on prices governing the importation into the Community of fresh lemons originating in certain Mediterranean countries

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council¹,
- having been consulted by the Council pursuant to Articles 43 and 113 of the EEC Treaty (Doc. 1-34/80),
- having regard to the report of the Committee on External Economic Relations and the opinions of the Committee on Budgets (Doc. 1-285/80),

approves the Commission's proposal.

¹ OJ No. C 67 of 18 March 1980, p. 2

EXPLANATORY STATEMENTI. Preliminary remark

At its meeting of 24 April 1980, the Committee on External Economic Relations had decided to apply to the text under consideration the procedure laid down in Rule 27A of the Rules of Procedure, considering that this text was purely technical in nature and should pose no problem. As the Committee on Budgets has asked for a report, the Committee on External Economic Relations proposes the following text for the information of that committee, but regrets that such a laborious procedure should have proved necessary.

II. Aim of the proposal

Within the framework of the fixing of prices for certain agricultural products and the common organization of the market in food and vegetables, it is proposed to extend until 31 May 1981 the suspension of the application of the conventional price to imports of fresh lemons from certain Mediterranean countries.

III. Contents of the proposal

It is proposed that taxes should not be applied to lemons imported from Mediterranean countries into the Community where the actual prices do not correspond to the conventional prices.

IV. Observations

The proposed measure concerns lemons originating in Cyprus, Spain, Israel, Morocco, the Arab Republic of Egypt, Tunisia and Turkey under the agreements concluded between the Community and these countries, which also take account of agreements concluded with Algeria, Jordan and Lebanon.

Imports of fresh lemons from these countries amounted to:

158,610 t. in 1976
159,821 t. in 1977
195,016 t. in 1978

It should be borne in mind when considering these figures that, with the exception of Italy (Sicily), the Member States of the Community are not major producers of lemons.

Experience gained during the application of the conventional price system has shown that exporting countries do try to respect the conventional price in order to avoid having to pay import duties. Renewing suspension of this system will not, therefore, have much effect on customs duties.

V. Conclusions

Under present circumstances, the proposal under consideration is purely technical in nature and is one of a series of measures to adjust prices.

For this reason the Committee on External Economic Relations is in favour of the adoption of this proposal. However, it wishes to draw the Commission's attention to the new situation which could be created by the Community's enlargement as regards the production and marketing of lemons, and to the fact that lemons must not become a bone of contention within its Mediterranean policy.

OPINION OF THE COMMITTEE ON BUDGETS

Letter from the Acting Chairman of the committee to Sir Fred CATHERWOOD,
Chairman of the Committee on External Economic Relations

12 June 1980

Subject: Proposal for a regulation amending Regulation (EEC) No. 471/76 as regards the period of suspension of the application of the condition on prices governing the importation in the Community of fresh lemons originating in certain Mediterranean countries (Doc. 1-34/80)

Dear Mr Chairman,

At its meeting of 3/4 June 1980 the Committee on Budgets considered the above proposal for a regulation.

Since the proposal involves negligible losses of revenue to Community own resources, the committee unanimously delivered a favourable opinion.

However, it emphasizes once again that the Commission has still not complied with the request to provide full details of the losses in revenue resulting from the partial suspension of the external tariffs and levies applied to third countries.

During the negotiation of the basic agreements with third countries it should be stressed that, in the case of sensitive agricultural markets, such customs facilities are subject to reciprocal concessions.

Yours sincerely,

Harry Notenboom
Acting Chairman

Present:

Mr Notenboom, first vice-chairman and acting chairman; Mr Baillet, Mr Barbi, Mr Bonde, Mrs Boserup, Mr Delmotte (deputizing for Mr Arndt), Mr Forth, Mr Gouthier, Mr Langes, Mr Nord, Mr Nordlohne (deputizing for Mr Aigner), Mr O'Hagan, Mrs Pruvot (deputizing for Mrs Scrivener) and Mr Konrad Schön