



European Communities

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

SESSION DOCUMENTS

English Edition

13 May 1991

A3-0135/91



R E P O R T

of the Committee on Budgets

on the Commission proposal for a Council regulation amending Regulation (EEC) No. 599/91 introducing a credit guarantee for exports of agricultural products and foodstuffs from the Community to the Soviet Union
(COM(90) 0140 - C3-0210/91)

Rapporteur: Mr Alain LAMASSOURE

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A Series: Reports - B Series: Motions for Resolutions, Oral Questions - C Series: Documents received from other Institutions (e.g. Consultations)



= Consultation procedure requiring a single reading



= Cooperation procedure (second reading) which requires the votes of a majority of the current Members of Parliament for rejection or amendment



= Cooperation procedure (first reading)



= Parliamentary assent which requires the votes of a majority of the current Members of Parliament

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By letter of 3 May 1991 the Council consulted the European Parliament, pursuant to Articles 113 and 225 of the EEC Treaty, on the Commission proposal for a Council regulation amending Regulation (EEC) No. 599/91 introducing a credit guarantee for exports of agricultural products and foodstuffs from the Community to the Soviet Union.

At the sitting of 13 May 1991 the President of Parliament announced that he had referred this proposal to the Committee on Budgets as the committee responsible and to the Political Affairs Committee and the Committee on External Economic Relations for their opinions.

At its meeting of 13 May 1991 the committee confirmed the appointment of Mr Lamassoure as rapporteur.

At the same meeting it considered the Commission proposal and the draft report and adopted the draft legislative resolution unanimously.

The following were present for the vote: von der Vring (chairman); Lamassoure (first vice-chairman and rapporteur); Cornelissen (second vice-chairman); Arias Canete, Blot, Böge, Colom i Naval, Desama, Elles, Goedmakers, Kellett-Bowman, Langes, Marques Mendes, Miranda da Silva, Onur (for Ferri), Pasty, Samland, Theato, Tomlinson, Wynn and Zavvos.

The opinion of the Political Affairs Committee will be presented orally.

The opinion of the Committee on External Economic Relations is attached to this report.

The report was tabled on 13 May 1991.

The deadline for tabling amendments will be announced in the plenary sitting by the President.

A

Commission proposal for a Council regulation
amending Regulation (EEC) No. 599/91
introducing a credit guarantee for exports
of agricultural products and foodstuffs from the Community
to the Soviet Union

Commission text

Amendment

(Amendment No. 1)
Article 1

Article 3 of Regulation (EEC) No. 599/91 is hereby replaced by the following:

'Article 3

The credit for which repayments are covered by the guarantee may not exceed ECU 500 million. Reimbursement shall involve three instalments of an equal amount, paid 20, 31 and 42 months from the signing of the agreement provided for in Article 2.

The credit shall be backed by a payment and transfer guarantee of a body empowered to cover sovereign risk and to authorize foreign currency transfers.

The credit guaranteed by the Community shall be backed by a payment and transfer guarantee of a Soviet body empowered to cover sovereign risk and to authorize foreign currency transfers.

DRAFT LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION

embodying the opinion of the European Parliament on the Commission proposal
for a Council regulation amending Regulation
(EEC) No. 599/91 introducing a credit guarantee for exports
of agricultural products and foodstuffs from the Community
to the Soviet Union

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the Commission proposal to the Council (COM(91) 140),
 - having been consulted by the Council pursuant to Articles 113 and 235 of the EEC Treaty (C3-0210/91),
 - having regard to the report of the Committee on Budgets and the opinions of the Political Affairs Committee and the Committee on External Economic Relations (A3-0135/91),
1. Approves the Commission proposal subject to Parliament's amendments and in accordance with the vote thereon;
 2. Calls on the Commission to amend its proposal accordingly, pursuant to Article 149(3) of the EEC Treaty;
 3. Calls on the Council to notify Parliament should it intend to depart from the text approved by Parliament;
 4. Calls for the conciliation procedure to be opened if the Council should intend to depart from the text approved by Parliament;
 5. Asked to be consulted again should the Council intend to make substantial modifications to the Commission proposal;
 6. Instructs its President to forward this opinion to the Council and Commission.

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

1. Following talks with Soviet representatives on the implementation of Regulation 599/91 introducing a credit guarantee for exports of agricultural products and foodstuffs from the Community to the Soviet Union, the Commission submitted a proposal for a regulation amending the above regulation.
2. This amendment, which concerns the arrangements for repaying credits, is necessitated by the Soviet authorities' difficulties in meeting the repayment schedule of six six-monthly instalments, as laid down in Regulation 599/91.
3. The proposed modification allows the payment to be made in three instalments, paid 20, 31 and 42 months after the signing of the agreement. This repayment scheme has been approved by the Soviet authorities.
4. The Commission proposal also restores a standard clause contained in Regulation 599/91 but missing from the Commission proposal. The wording seems ambiguous to say the least, and your rapporteur proposes inserting an amendment to make the passage clearer.
5. This proposal shows that misgivings about the ability of some countries to repay the credits granted to them were warranted and that, consequently, there is every likelihood that the Community guarantee will be invoked. Under the new repayment arrangements, the first instalment will probably be due in 1993; this new situation makes the establishment of the 'guarantee fund' for which Parliament has asked a matter of even greater urgency.
6. As the Council has requested that this proposal be given urgent consideration, the rapporteur proposes that it be accepted. The rapporteur also proposes that a favourable opinion be delivered on this proposal, subject to the adoption of the amendment.

OPINION

of the Committee on External Economic Relations

Letter from the chairman of the committee to Mr von der VRING, chairman of the Committee on Budgets

Strasbourg, 13 May 1991

Subject: proposal for a regulation (EEC) of the Council amending Regulation (EEC) No. 599/91 introducing a credit guarantee for exports of agricultural products and foodstuffs from the Community to the Soviet Union
(COM(91) 140 final - C3-0210/91)

Dear Sir,

At its meeting of 13 May the Committee on External Economic Relations considered the above proposal for a regulation.

It noted that, in its opinion of 7 February 1991 on Regulation 599/91 introducing a credit guarantee for exports to the Soviet Union, it had already pointed out the importance to be given to an in-depth analysis of financial developments and the ways in which the loans granted to Central and Eastern European countries could be repaid, stressing the advisability of setting up a mechanism to fix a limit for guarantees for loans to be repaid by third countries.

The need in the present case to reschedule the repayment by the USSR of loans guaranteed by the Community emphasizes the urgency of the remarks made in the opinion of 7 February 1991.

On the basis of the above considerations the Committee on External Economic Relations delivered a positive opinion on the proposal for a regulation.

Yours sincerely,

Willy DE CLERCQ

The following were present for the vote : De Clercq, chairman; Stavrou and Moorhouse, vice-chairmen; da Cunha Oliveira (for Benoit), de Vries, Hindley, Lenz (for Estgen), Marck (for Gallenzi), Peijs, Randzio-Plath, Spencer, Sonneveld (for Lemmer), Tsimas and Visser (for Titley).