

# European Communities

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## EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

# Working Documents

1976 - 1977

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20 December 1976

DOCUMENT 500/76

ORAL QUESTION (0-87/76)

without debate, pursuant to Rule 46 of the Rules  
of Procedure

by Mr CORTERIER

to the Commission of the European Communities

Subject: Application of the preferences agreement  
with Brazil to the import of powdered  
coffee into the Community

Powdered coffee, under heading number 21.02, is subject to a conventional rate of duty of 18%, but when imported from Brazil enjoys preferential treatment whereby the rate of duty is halved, on condition that it is accompanied by a 'Certificate of origin Form A', certified by the authorities in the country of origin and attached to the other shipping documents.

The major problem here is the issuing of provisional certificates of origin referring to one part of the products in question. Under Article 23 of Regulation (EEC) No. 3214/75 of 3 December 1975<sup>1</sup>, these can be issued only at the Customs Office in the Community where the products are located.

The subsequent sale of part of the total consignment of the 'goods in transit' is hampered by this regulation. Because of the lengthy shipping time between Brazil and Europe, the importers involved suffer considerable losses. The rule laid down in Article 23 does not take account of the commercial realities. It adversely affects certain fringe areas of the Community and leads to a dislocation of trade.

I should therefore like to ask the Commission:

1. Is it true that a proposed amendment to Article 23, which would overcome these difficulties, was submitted to the Commission as long ago as December 1975? Why has it not been adopted?
2. If no such proposed amendment exists, is the Commission prepared to take the earliest possible opportunity to put an end to this state of affairs, which is leading to a distortion of competition by amending Article 23?