

---

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

# Working Documents

1982-1983

---

21 October 1982

DOCUMENT 1-831 /82

REPORT

drawn up on behalf of the Committee on the  
Environment, Public Health and Consumer  
Protection

on the proposal from the Commission of the  
European Communities to the Council  
(Doc. 1-829/82 - COM(82) 639 final) for a  
Regulation on rules for a prohibition to  
import skins of certain sealpups and products  
derived therefrom into the Community

Rapporteur : Mr K. COLLINS

PE 81.016/fin.



By letter of 29 October, 1982, the President of the Council of the European Communities requested the European Parliament to deliver an opinion, pursuant to Article of the EEC Treaty, on the proposal from the Council of the European Communities to the Council for a Regulation on rules for a prohibition to import skins of certain sealpups and products derived therefrom into the Community.

The President of the European Parliament referred this proposal to the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection as the committee responsible.

At its meeting of 19 October 1982 the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection appointed Mr K. COLLINS rapporteur.

The committee considered the Commission's proposal and the draft report at its meeting of 19 October 1982.

At this meeting, the committee decided by 15 votes to 2 and 1 abstention, to recommend to Parliament that it approve the Commission's proposal with the following amendments.

The committee decided to reserve the right to propose to Parliament the application of Rule 35 (3), after having heard the opinion of the Commission.

The following took part in the vote: Mr JOHNSON, acting chairman, Mr McCARTIN, vice-chairman, Mr COLLINS, rapporteur, Mr ALBER, Mr BERKHOUWER, Mr BOMBARD, Mr DEL DUCA, Mr GHERGO, Mr GEURTSSEN (deputizing for Mrs SCRIVENER), Mrs VAN HEMELDONCK, Miss HOOPER, Mrs LENTZ-CORNETTE, Mr MUNTINGH, Mr NORDMANN, Mrs SCHLEICHER, Dr SHERLOCK, Mrs SPAAK and Mrs SQUARCIALUPI.

The Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection hereby submits to the European Parliament the following amendments and motion for a resolution, together with explanatory statement:

Amendments by the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection

Text proposed by the Commission of the European Communities

-----

Proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC) on rules for a prohibition to import skins of certain sealpups and products derived therefrom into the Community

Amendment No.1

Delete the word "whitecoat"

Amendment No. 2

Annex

Delete the word "whitecoat"

Amendment No.1

Preamble, 3rd indent

Whereas it is appropriate therefore to prohibit the importation into the Community of the skins of whitecoat pups of harp seals and of pups of hooded seals as well as of certain products derived therefrom;

Amendment No. 2

Annex

| CCT No.  | <u>Description</u>   |
|----------|--|
| ex 43.01 | Raw furskins and furskins, tanned or dressed including   |
| ex 43.02 | furskins assembled in plates, crosses, tanned or dressed of whitecoat pups of harp seals and of pups of hooded seals (bluebacks) |

A.

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

closing the procedure for consultation of the European Parliament on the proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC) on rules for a prohibition to import skins of certain sealpups and products derived therefrom into the Community

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the proposal from the Commission to the Council (COM(82) 639 final)
  - having been consulted by the Council (Doc. 1-829/82)
  - having regard to the report by the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection (Doc. 1-984/81)<sup>1</sup>
  - having regard to the report from the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection (Doc. 1-831/82),
  - having regard to the result of the vote of the Commission's proposal
- a. Recalling its resolutions of 11 March, 1982 and 16 September 1982 on the importation of seal products into the Community, (Doc. 1-582/82)
  - b. Recalling the statements on this subject made by the Commission in the course of the March, April, July and September part-sessions of the European Parliament,
  - c. Recalling the decision of the Council of 24 June 1982 to support early action for the protection of seals and the statements made to the Parliament by the President-in-Office of the Council on 15 September 1982,
  - d. Noting that the Commission has now come forward with the draft proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC) on rules for a prohibition to import skins of certain sealpups and products derived therefrom into the Community,

---

<sup>1</sup> OJ No. C 87 of 5.4.82, p. 87

1. Approves the basic approach of the draft regulation and urges the Council to adopt it as rapidly as possible and in any case in time to allow the draft regulation to come into effect before 1 March 1983;
2. Urges the Commission to take rapid action on other aspects of the Parliament's resolutions of 11 March 1982 and 16 September 1982, in particular those relating to the listing of seals in the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), the protection of the Mediterranean monk seal, and of other seals whose stocks are depleted, threatened or endangered:
3. Urges the Council, in adopting the draft regulation, to ensure that it applies, not merely to whitecoat pups of harp seals but to all young harp seals as requested by the Parliament in its March 1982 resolution ;
4. Instructs its President to forward to the Commission and the Council the proposal from the Commission as voted by Parliament and the corresponding resolution as Parliament's opinion.

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

1. In March 1982 the European Parliament approved by a majority of 160 to 10 with 20 abstentions a resolution relating to the import of harp and hooded seal products into the Community. This resolution was based on a report (Doc.1-984/81) by Mrs J. Maij-Weggen on behalf of the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection on a motion for a resolution originally proposed by Mr Johnson (Doc. 1-106/80)
  
2. In September 1982 the European Parliament adopted a further resolution which called upon the Commission to come forward with the appropriate proposals before the October part-session.
  
3. The Commission has now come forward with a proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC) on rules for a prohibition to import skins of certain sealpups and products derived therefrom into the Community. This proposal goes a long way towards meeting the objectives contained in paragraph 1 of the Parliament's resolution of 11 March 1982. However, by limiting the application of the regulation to whitecoat pups of harp seals, the Commission has not completely met the wishes of Parliament which called for an import ban on products coming from all young harp seals, in other words not merely whitecoats.
  
4. The Parliament therefore proposes an amendment to the text of the draft regulation

5. It is also important for the Commission to respond rapidly to other points in the Parliament's resolutions of 11 March 1982 and 16 September 1982, particularly those relating to the protection of the Mediterranean monk seal, the listing of seals in the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) and other seals whose stocks are depleted, threatened or endangered.



EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

1. In March 1982 the European Parliament approved by a majority of 160 to 10 with 20 abstentions a resolution relating to the import of harp and hooded seal products into the Community. This resolution was based on a report (Doc.1-984/81) by Mrs J. Maij-Weggen on behalf of the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection on a motion for a resolution originally proposed by Mr Johnson (Doc. 1-106/80)
2. In September 1982 the European Parliament adopted a further resolution which called upon the Commission to come forward with the appropriate proposals before the October part-session.
3. The Commission has now come forward with a proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC) on rules for a prohibition to import skins of certain sealpups and products derived therefrom into the Community. This proposal goes a long way towards meeting the objectives contained in paragraph 1 of the Parliament's resolution of 11 March 1982. However, by limiting the application of the regulation to whitecoat pups of harp seals, the Commission has not completely met the wishes of Parliament which called for an import ban on products coming from all young harp seals, in other words not merely whitecoats.
4. The Parliament therefore proposes an amendment to the text of the draft regulation

5. It is also important for the Commission to respond rapidly to other points in the Parliament's resolutions of 11 March 1982 and 16 September 1982, particularly those relating to the protection of the Mediterranean monk seal, the listing of seals in the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) and other seals whose stocks are depleted, threatened or endangered.