

European Communities

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

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OPINION

of the Committee on Agriculture

accompanying the report by Mr Jan BAAS 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. 409/74) for a regulation amending Regulation (EEC) No. 950/68 on the Common Customs Tariff as regards the /
/exchange rate to be applied in respect of the tariff classification of certain cheeses

Draftsman of opinion: Mr A. LIOGIER

1.2.1

English Edition

PE 39.206/fin./Ann.

On 17 December 1974 the Committee on Agriculture appointed Mr Liogier draftsman.

At its meeting on 17 February 1975 it considered the opinion and adopted it by 8 votes to 1 with 2 abstentions.

Present: Mr Houdet, chairman; Mr Laban, vice-chairman; Mr Liogier, draftsman; Mr Baas, Mr Boudellès, Mr Brégégère, Mr Frehsee, Mr Hansen, Mr De Keersmaeker, Mr Martens and Mr Scott-Hopkins.

1. Pursuant to the rule in Title I, Part C, paragraph 3 of the Common Customs tariff, the unit of account used for calculating certain specific customs duties or for defining the scope of certain headings or sub-headings is expressed as a given quantity of fine gold; the exchange rate to be applied in converting it into the currencies of Member States corresponds to the par value for these currencies communicated to the International Monetary Fund and recognized by it.

2. In view of current fluctuations in exchange rates, this provision is likely to lead to wide differences in applying the Common Customs Tariff in the Member States which may cause deflection of trade.

3. The Commission is preparing to place before the Council a proposal for a regulation to find an overall solution to this problem.

4. However, the situation as regards cheeses requires an urgent solution for the immediate future because, as the Commission notes, the price of such products on importation from third countries is considerably lower than the price of like products manufactured within the Community.

5. This is the aim of this proposal for a regulation which - pending an overall solution - applies for tariff purposes to operations concerning these products the representative rate fixed under the common agricultural policy.

6. In view of the urgency of this matter the Committee on Agriculture, which has been asked for its opinion, approves the proposed regulation while reserving the right to give more thorough consideration to the whole matter when it delivers its opinion on the regulation dealing with the matter as a whole.