

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

1975-1976

18 June 1975

DOCUMENT 131/75/ANNEX

OPINIONS

of the Committee on Agriculture

and the Committee on External Economic Relations

on the recommendation from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council (Doc. 109/75) for a regulation on the interim trade arrangements with the overseas countries and territories associated with the European Economic Community

Opinion of the Committee on Agriculture

Draftsman: Mr Frankie Hansen

On 22 May 1975 the Committee on Agriculture appointed Mr Hansen draftsman of the opinion. It considered the draft opinion at its meeting of 16 June 1975, and adopted it by eight votes for, with two abstentions.

The following were present: Mr Houdet, chairman; Mr Vetrone, vice-chairman; Mr Hansen, draftsman; Mr Bourdelles, Mr Brégégère, Mr Cifarelli, Mr Liogier, Mrs Orth, Lord St. Oswald and Mr Zeller.

1. On 16 April 1975, the Commission drew up a draft regulation to provide for the advance implementation of the import arrangements laid down in the Lomé Convention for certain agricultural and agricultural processed goods originating in the African, Caribbean and Pacific States¹.

2. The Commission now proposes to extend these advantages to the overseas countries and territories, on the grounds:

- that these overseas countries and territories should not suffer from less favourable treatment;
- and that a number of these OCT will shortly reach independence and will be eligible to adhere to the Lomé Convention.

3. The beneficiaries of the Lomé Convention do not constitute a free trade bloc. Consequently, there is no provision for ACP States to grant to the Community or one another most favoured nation treatment. The contrary, however, is true of the OCT, by reason of Part Four of the Treaty of Rome which establishes the principles of reciprocity and non-discrimination. In order to provide arrangements equivalent to those accorded to ACP States, the Commission proposes that customs duties or quantitative restrictions may be allowed, if required by reason of: development programmes or budgetary and balance of payments requirements. The principle of non-discrimination may be waived in order to further regional development.

4. The Commission further proposes that rum be imported from the OCT on the same basis as that provided for the ACP States: that is, a quantity free of customs duties equivalent to largest annual imports over the last three years, increased by a 13% annual growth rate. At present, rum is imported from the OCT (and in particular the Dutch West Indies), free of customs duties and quantitative restrictions. Provision is made in this present proposal for measures to remedy any restriction on traditional trade flows and for a review of the annual percentage increase in the case of an increase in Community consumption.

Conclusions

5. The purpose of this Communication is to extend to the OCT arrangements accorded to the ACP States in the same conditions. In the opinion drawn up by Mr Hansen², the Committee on Agriculture approved those arrangements for the ACP States. For the reasons given in that opinion, it approves this proposal.

¹ Doc. 128/75, II

² Doc. 128/75, Annex

OPINION

of the Committee on External Economic Relations

Draftsman: Mr E. MULLER

On 10 June 1975, the Committee on External Economic Relations appointed Mr E. MULLER rapporteur. It considered and unanimously adopted the draft opinion at its meeting of 10 June 1975.

The following were present: Mr Kaspereit, chairman and deputy rapporteur; Mr Thomsen, vice-chairman; Mr Bermani, vice-chairman; Mr Boano, vice-chairman; Lord Bethell, Mr Dunne, Mr Schwörer (deputizing for Mr Schulz), Mr Spicer and Mr Vetrone

1. The recommendation for a Council regulation is of a purely technical character and contains an invitation to the Council, following the conclusion of the ACP-EEC Convention in Lomé to also establish appropriate interim trade arrangements with the overseas countries and territories associated with the EEC, with particular reference to the early implementation of certain provisions of this Convention from 1 July 1975.
2. The Committee on External Economic Regulations approves this recommendation, which guarantees the above countries and territories the same treatment as that accorded to the ACP countries.