

# European Communities

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EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

## Working Documents

1975-1976

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14 November 1975

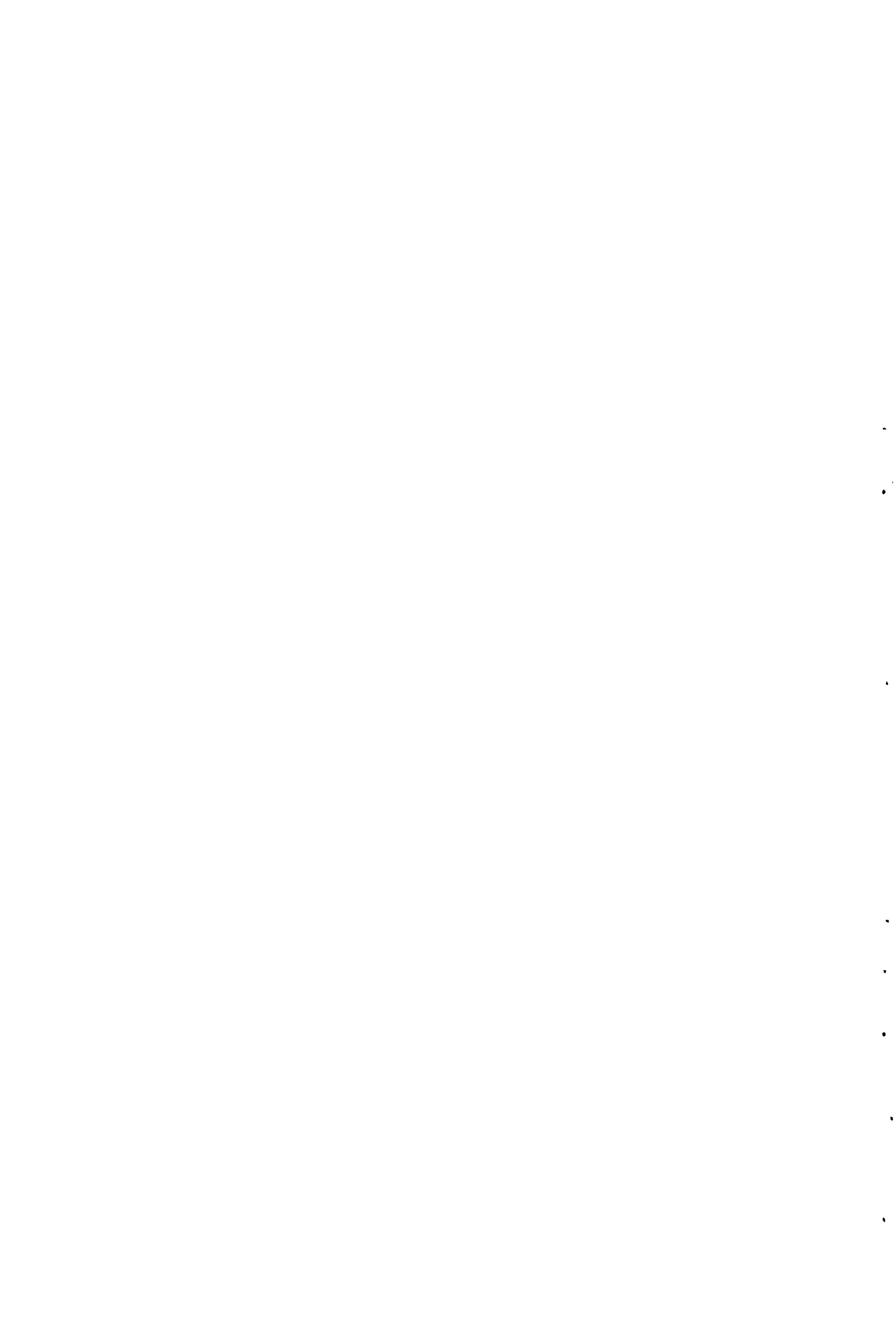
DOCUMENT 342/75/ANNEX

### OPINION

of the Committee on Agriculture

on the proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council (Doc. 295/75) for a regulation totally or partially suspending Common Customs Tariff duties on certain products falling within Chapters 1 to 24 of the Common Customs Tariff, originating in Malta (1976)

PE 42.208/fin./Ann.



OPINION OF THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

Letter from the acting chairman to Mr SCHUIJT, chairman of the Associations Committee

Brussels, 5 November 1975

Dear Mr Chairman,

At its meeting of 4 and 5 November 1975, the Committee on Agriculture considered the proposal for a regulation totally or partially suspending Common Customs Tariff duties on certain products falling within Chapters 1 to 24 of the Common Customs Tariff, originating in Malta (1976) (Doc. 295/75)<sup>1</sup>.

The agreement of association between Malta and the Community of the Six, which came into force on 1 April 1971, provided for the gradual removal of the obstacles to the bulk of trade between the contracting parties. The agreement, however, covers industrial products only; agricultural products are excluded at the present stage.

Without the regulation in question, for certain products falling under Chapters 1 to 24 CCF, the countries benefitting by the generalized preference arrangements would receive more favourable treatment than that accorded to Malta.

Moreover, the arrangements still in force for third countries in Britain, Denmark and Ireland would involve the application to certain products originating in Malta of tariffs higher than or equal to those applied to third countries.

The present proposal for a resolution is intended to eliminate this anomaly for 1976, as has been done in previous

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<sup>1</sup> Present: Mr Laban, acting chairman; Mr Bourdellès, Mr Brégégère, Mr Cifarelli, Mrs Dunwoody, Mr Espersen, Mr Hughes, Mr De Koning, Mr Martens, Lord St. Oswald, Mr Scott-Hopkins and Lord Walston.

years, by providing for the reduction of CCT duties or, where appropriate, of the fixed component of the levy, and for the introduction of appropriate machinery to enable the three new Member States to accord Malta lower tariffs than those applied to third countries.

None the less, the Commission for Agriculture wishes to point out that the agricultural products to which Malta ascribes the greatest importance as exports to the EEC are potatoes, tomatoes, onions, flowers, plant cuttings, strawberries, wine and meat of swine. None of these products enjoys preferential treatment either under the existing regulation, or as has already been pointed out, under the existing agreement of association. The products listed in the present proposal (in general, processed products) are of minor importance as regards either quantity or value; the items concerned are in fact kinds of fruit juice, aquarium fish, game, and meat of 'other' swine, that listed under heading No. 0201, A III b of the CCT, i.e. of the non-domestic variety, sauerkraut and capers.

The Committee on Agriculture does not wish to formulate any further observations or reservations on the present proposal.

(sgd.) C. LABAN  
Acting Chairman