

European Communities

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Working Documents

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Report

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. 202/74) for a regulation modifying Regulation (EEC) No 1445/72 concerning the nomenclature of goods for the external trade statistics of the Community and statistics of trade between Member States (NIMEXE)

Rapporteur: Mr. K. THOMSEN

PE 37.913/fin.

By letter of 9 July 1974, the President of the Council of the European Communities requested the European Parliament, pursuant to Article 235 of the EEC Treaty, to deliver an opinion on the proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council for a regulation modifying regulation (EEC) No. 1445/72 concerning the nomenclature of goods for the external trade statistics of the Community and statistics of trade between Member States (NIMEXE) (Doc. 202/74).

By letter of 12 July 1974, the President of the European Parliament referred this proposal to the Committee on External Economic Relations as the committee responsible.

The Committee on External Economic Relations appointed Mr Thomsen rapporteur and considered this proposal at its meeting of 17 September 1974.

At the same meeting, the committee unanimously adopted the motion for a resolution and the explanatory statement.

The following were present: Sir Douglas Dodds-Parker, vice-chairman; Mr Brewis, Mr Corterier, Mr D'Angelosante, Mr De Clerq, Mr Herbert, Mr Klepsch, Mr E Muller, Mr Premoli, Mr Radoux, Mr Sandri, Mr Thornley, Mr Vandewiele.

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The Committee on External Economic Relations hereby submits to the European Parliament the following motion for a resolution, together with explanatory statement:

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

embodying the opinion of the European Parliament on the proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council for a regulation modifying regulation (EEC) No. 1445/72 concerning the nomenclature of goods for the external trade statistics of the Community and statistics of trade between Member States (NIMEXE).

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council¹,
- having been consulted by the Council pursuant to Article 235 of the EEC Treaty (Doc. 202/74),
- having regard to the report of the Committee on External Economic Relations (Doc. 258/74),

1. Approves the Commission's proposal;
2. Instructs its President to forward this resolution and the report of its committee to the Council and Commission of the European Communities.

¹ OJ No. C 92, 6.8.1974, P. 13



EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

1. Council regulation No. 1445/72 of 24 April 1972¹ established a nomenclature of goods for the external trade statistics of the Community and statistics of trade between Member States (NIMEXE), thus laying the basis for a detailed and homogeneous breakdown of the trade statistics of the Community.²
2. Article 2, paragraph 2, of the regulation provides that by 31 December 1974, the Council shall lay down detailed rules for application of the NIMEXE by the Member States. The Commission observes that the converging trend in nomenclature of products and of activities has accelerated under the influence of work undertaken at the national and international levels. However, although these detailed rules for application are largely determined by the pressure of computer requirements, it has proved necessary to make certain modifications to the provisions contained in the regulation in the light of experience since it came into force.
3. The purpose of the present proposal for a regulation modifying regulation No. 1445/72 is, therefore, to ensure complete application of the NIMEXE by the Community and its Member States. For this purpose, adjustments are proposed, dealing mainly with:
 - (a) the Member States' retention or introduction of sub-divisions answering national needs and the effect of this on the NIMEXE;
 - (b) the need for complete annual publication of the NIMEXE with all modifications.
4. The measures under (a) are basically designed to avoid the situation in which the statistical sub-divisions answering national needs are detrimental to the development of the NIMEXE. It is proposed that optional items may be created, with the Commission's agreement, to meet national needs.

The annual publication of a single text under (b), by assembling not only those parts of the NIMEXE which have been changed during the previous year, but also those parts modified before, is intended to spare the users a laborious up-dating process.
5. In view of the importance of the complete application of the NIMEXE to facilitate formalities and therefore trade, and considering its importance for the statistical breakdown of trade and consequently for the common commercial policy, the Committee on External Economic Relations approves the proposal without amendments.

¹OJ No. L 161, 17.7.1972

²According to the Commission, data broken down into 6,538 items was available to users of the NIMEXE on 1 January 1974.

