

European Communities

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

1974-1975

16 September 1974

DOCUMENT 198/74

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. 127/74) for a regulation on the opening, allocation and administration of a Community tariff quota for certain eels falling within subheading No ex 03.01 A II of the Common Customs Tariff for 1975

Rapporteur : Mr David Andrew THORNLEY

PE 37.499/fin.

By letter of 4 June 1974 the President of the Council of the European Communities requested the European Parliament, pursuant to Article 43 of the EEC Treaty, to deliver an opinion on the proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council for a regulation on the opening, allocation and administration of a Community tariff quota for certain eels falling within subheading No. ex 03.01 A II of the Common Customs Tariff for 1975 (Doc. 127/74).

On 7 June 1974 the Secretary-General of the European Parliament referred this proposal to the Committee on External Economic Relations as the committee responsible and the Committee on Agriculture for their opinions.

The Committee on External Economic Relations appointed Mr THORNLEY rapporteur on 2 July 1974. It considered this proposal at its meeting of 2 July 1974.

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

The following were present: Mr de la Malène, chairman; Mr Fellermaier, vice-chairman; Mr Thomsen, vice-chairman; Mr Thornley, rapporteur; Mr Brégégère, Lord Chelwood, Mr Kaspereit, Mr Lange, Lord St. Oswald, Mr Sandri and Mr Schulz.

The opinion of the Committee on Agriculture is attached.

C O N T E N T S

	<u>Page</u>
A. MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION.....	5
B. EXPLANATORY STATEMENT.....	6
Opinion of the Committee on Agriculture.....	7

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 on the opening, allocation and administration of a Community tariff quota for certain eels falling within subheading No. ex 03.01 A II of the Common Customs Tariff for 1975

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 43 of the EEC Treaty (Doc. 127/74);
 - having regard to the report of the Committee on External Economic Relations and the opinion of the Committee on Agriculture (Doc.198 /74);
1. Approves the proposal for a regulation,
 2. Instructs its President to forward this resolution and the report of its committee to the Council and Commission of the European Communities.

¹O.J. No. C68 of 12.6.74, p.7

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

1. As in previous years the production of eels in the Community remains insufficient, despite efforts to increase the volume produced. Worsening water pollution, in particular, has led to the closing of certain Community production centres. The considerable reduction in supplies from Community countries has made it increasingly necessary to assure supplies to the processing industries of the Member States by imports from third countries.
2. This situation led the Council, acting on a proposal from the Commission, to open beginning in 1971, a nil-duty Community tariff quota for certain types of fresh eels (live or dead), chilled or frozen, falling within subheading No. ex 03.01 A II of the Common Customs Tariff.
3. The opening of a quota of 6,100 metric tons for 1975 corresponds to the estimated shortfall in Community production to be made up by imports. Duty under the Common Customs Tariff is to be suspended totally in respect of this quota.

The quota will be divided into two tranches. The first of these (about 85 per cent of the tariff quota) will be allocated among the various Member States in proportion to the size of their import quota last year. The second tranche will constitute a reserve to cover subsequent requirements of those Member States which have used up their initial share. The regulation is to enter into force on 1 January 1975.
4. As was the case last year¹, the Committee on External Economic Relations does not consider that this proposal for a regulation raises any particular problems. It therefore approves the proposal without modifications.

¹ see Doc. 290/73

OPINION OF THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

Draftsman: Mr R. HOUDET, Chairman of the Committee

The Committee on Agriculture appointed Mr John HILL draftsman of the opinion on 2 July 1974. Mr John HILL was replaced by Mr HOUDET, Chairman of the Committee, on 5 September 1974.

It considered this proposal at its meeting of 5 and 6 September 1974.

At the same meeting the committee unanimously adopted the draft opinion with one abstention.

The following were present : Mr Houdet, Chairman and draftsman of the opinion; Mr Vetrone, Vice-Chairman; Mr Laban, Vice-Chairman; Mr Baas, Mr Brugger, Mr Cipolla, Mr Concas, Mr Della Briotta, Mr Frehsee, Mr Früh, Mr Hansen, Mr Howell, Mr Lemoine, Mr Ligios, Mr Liogier, Mrs Orth, Mr Scott-Hopkins.

1. Eels are consumed directly or in a processed form. In recent years, the processing industry has found it impossible to fulfil its requirements from Community production, due to the prohibition of eel fishing or the pollution of eel fishing areas.

Despite efforts to increase production in alternative areas, Community production has fallen, requiring imports to make up the shortfall in the processing industry's requirements, especially in the Benelux countries and the Federal Republic of Germany.

2. Consequently, the Council decided, on a proposal from the Commission, to open a nil-duty Community tariff quota for certain types of dead or alive, chilled or frozen, fresh eels, falling within the sub-heading No. ex 03.01 of the Common Customs Tariff.

Each year since, the lack of improvement in the market situation has led the Commission to propose further tariff quotas.

3. The proposal for a tariff quota for 1975 follows previous proposals in dividing the quota into two tranches:

- the first, of 5,210 tonnes, allocated between Member States in the following manner:

Benelux	1,150 tonnes
Denmark	600
Germany	3,000
France	100
Ireland	10
Italy	100
United Kingdom	250
	<u>5,210</u>

- and a second tranche of 890 tonnes to be used as a reserve upon which Member States can draw when 90% of their initial allocation has been used up, by means of three further shares of 15%, 7.5% and 7.5% of the initial share.

4. This proposal is basically of a technical nature. The Committee on Agriculture approved the previous proposal for a quota, for 1974, without commentary¹. There appears to be no reason to adopt a different opinion at this time.

¹ Doc. 289/73.