

European Communities

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

1982-1983

5 April 1982

DOCUMENT 1-34/82

REPORT

drawn up on behalf of the Committee on Development
and Cooperation

on the proposals from the Commission of the European
Communities to the Council (Doc. 1-1045/81) for
regulations concerning ~~food~~ aid in 1982

Rapporteur : Mr P. LEZZI

By letter of 12 February 1982 the Council of the European Communities requested the European Parliament to deliver an opinion on the proposals from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council (Doc. 1-1045/81) for:

- a Council regulation laying down general rules for the supply of skimmed-milk powder to certain developing countries and specialised bodies under the food aid programme

and

- a Council regulation laying down general rules for the supply of milk fats to certain developing countries and specialised bodies under the food aid programme.

The President of the European Parliament referred these proposals on 17 February 1982 to the Committee on Development and Cooperation as the committee responsible and to the Committee on Budgets for its opinion.

On 25 February 1982 the Committee on Development and Cooperation appointed Mr Lezzi rapporteur.

It considered the draft report at its meetings of 9 March 1982, 10 March 1982 and 17 March 1982. At its meeting of 17 March 1982 it unanimously adopted the motion for a resolution.

The following participated in the vote: Mr Poniatowski, chairman; Mr Bersani and Mr Kühn, vice-chairmen; Mr Lezzi, rapporteur; Mrs Cassanmagnago-Cerretti (deputizing for Mr Lecanuet); Mr Cohen, Mr de Courcy Ling, Mr Fellermaier, Mr Ferrero, Mrs Focke, Mr G. Fuchs, Mr Irmer, Mr Michel, Mr Narducci, Mr Pannella, Mrs Rabbethge, Mr J.D. Taylor (deputizing for Mr Sherlock); Mr Wedekind.

The explanatory statement will be presented orally.

The opinion of the Committee on Budgets is attached.

The Committee on Development and Cooperation hereby submits to the European Parliament the following motion for a resolution

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

embodying the opinion of the European Parliament on the proposals from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council for regulations concerning food aid in 1982

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the proposals submitted to the Council by the Commission of the European Communities (COM(81) 804 final),
- having been consulted by the Council (Doc.1-1045/81),
- having regard to the report of the Committee on Development and Cooperation and to the opinion of the Committee on Budgets (Doc. 1-34/82),
- having regard to the Court of Auditors' Special Report on food aid,
- having regard to its previous resolutions, and in particular its resolutions:
 - on the proposals from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council (Doc. 583/78) for
 - I. a regulation on the management of food aid
 - II. a regulation amending Regulations (EEC) Nos. 2052/69, 1703/72 and 2681/74 on Community financing of expenditures incurred in respect of the supply of agricultural products as food aid, and repealing Decision 72/335/EEC, (1),
 - on the European Communities contribution to the campaign to eliminate hunger in the world (2),
 - on the proposals from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council (Doc. 1-963/80) for regulations concerning food aid in 1981 (3),

(1) Report of Mr Lezzi, OJ No. C93 of 9.4.1979, page 64

(2) Report of Mr Ferrero, OJ No. C265 of 13.10.80, page 37

(3) Report of Sir Fred Warner, OJ No. C144 of 15.6.81, page 117

1. **Endorses** the proposals submitted by the Commission to the Council granting 667,000 tonnes of cereals to the developing countries, 236,000 tonnes to specialized bodies and 184,963 tonnes as a reserve, making a total of 1,087,963 tonnes of cereals (+ 17.2% over 1981), 150,000 tonnes of skimmed milk powder and 45,000 tonnes of butteroil (the same as for 1981). Although the quantity of cereals granted for 1982 is higher than for the previous year, it represents only around 1.1% of the developing countries' import requirements;
2. Notes, however, that food aid as such offers only a temporary solution to the problem of hunger and stresses the links which should exist between food aid and rural development policies and national food strategies; urges, therefore, that food aid should always be supplemented by practical agricultural and rural development schemes;
3. Approves the concentration of aid on the poorest countries and those with serious cereals shortages;
4. Notes that the Commission document does not specify the proportion of food aid granted by the Community and the Member States respectively;
5. Welcomes the fact that there has been some progress towards reducing delays - which have been repeatedly criticized from various quarters - in implementing the annual programmes;
6. Stresses the persistent and worsening imbalance between the aid granted by the Community and the food needs of the developing countries (the total of 2,100,000 tonnes of food aid in the form of cereals requested by 46 countries from the Community far exceeds the quantities available), which has been aggravated by the growth in population, which outstrips the rise in cereal production, as only a few countries have achieved such an increase; finally, the number of refugees and evacuees is steadily increasing;
7. Notes that food aid was allocated to the developing countries on the basis of documented requests and in accordance with general criteria suitably amended for the current year in line with the principle of concentrating food aid so as to prevent it being granted purely as a symbolic gesture for the recipient and the Community;
8. Insists once again on food aid being determined by the needs of the recipient states, and not according to the availability of surplus European agricultural produce;
9. Calls on the Commission of the European Communities to consider the consequences of population growth in the developing countries on future food aid policy;

10. Stresses the importance of the conciliation procedure on the draft regulation on the management of food aid, and, with regard to this, reaffirms its view
- that the food aid programme for cereals be based on Article 113, 235, and 43 of the EEC Treaty,
 - that food aid be classified as non-compulsory expenditure,
 - that the recipients of food aid be determined by the Commission,
 - that the management committee on food aid have only advisory powers,
- and urges that the conciliation procedure be complete within three months on the basis of the Joint Declaration of 4 March 1975;
11. Notes that the Commission envisages no general programme for food aid in the form of sugar, vegetable oil and other products which, apart from the sugar allocated to UNRWA, will be used for ad hoc actions during 1982;
insists
- on the appropriations entered in Articles 922, 923 and 924 of the General Budget of the European Communities being fully utilised for the purposes for which they were voted, and
 - on the European Parliament being informed before actions involving the granting of food aid in the form of sugar, vegetable oil and other products are undertaken;
12. Maintains that the overall quantities of food aid to be supplied in any year must be fixed in the general budget of the European Communities;
13. Believes that more realistic budgetary estimates can be achieved by introducing differentiated appropriations for food aid particularly as specific multiannual programmes are to be proposed in the near future;
14. Notes that, despite the format of Article 920 of the General Budget of the European Communities (Food Aid in Cereals) no distinction is made in the 1982 programme between food aid in rice and food aid in other cereals; calls, accordingly, for greater clarity in this respect in future programmes;
15. Calls on the Commission to intensify its efforts to improve the internal administration of food aid, and requests that the relevant division of DG VIII be given the staff required for this purpose;

16. Favours the principle of food aid being used for the establishment of regional and national security stocks and welcomes the fact that the Commission has provided for an increase in the reserve for special and unforeseen requirements;
17. Repeats its request to the Commission for a detailed report on the effects of Community food aid on the populations and the economies of recipient states;
18. Welcomes the action taken in the area of food aid granted by non-governmental organizations and requests that any expenditure incurred by them on behalf of the Commission should be reimbursed by the latter without delay;
19. Regrets that the Commission has not made specific reference in its 1982 programme to the purchase of food aid in non Member States (three-way transactions), and hopes that, where it would be advantageous, this will be done;
20. Notes that, notwithstanding the duty of the Community to promote respect for human rights wherever possible, food aid should not be made conditional on the political situation in the recipient countries, and that every effort must be made to ensure that food aid reaches those sections of the population for which it is intended;
21. In the absence of the framework regulation on food aid policy and management which is currently subject to conciliation procedure between the European Parliament and the Council, endorses, subject to the above comments, the 1982 food aid programmes proposed by the Commission of the European Communities.

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EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

Owing to the very limited time at his disposal, the rapporteur is obliged to present his explanatory statement orally.

OPINION OF THE COMMITTEE ON BUDGETS

Letter from the chairman of the Committee to Mr Michel Poniatoski,
chairman of the Committee on Development and Cooperation

Subject: The Committee on Budgets' adverse opinion on

- the proposal for a regulation laying down general rules for the supply of skimmed-milk powder to certain developing countries and specialized bodies under the food aid programme;
- the proposal for a regulation on the supply of milk fats (Doc. COM(81) 804 final - Doc. 1-1045/81).

Dear M. Poniatoski,

At its meeting of 9 March 1982 the Committee on Budgets unanimously expressed its adverse opinion on the two abovementioned proposed regulations.

It considers that these proposed regulations, should they be accepted, might compromise the results of the conciliation procedure at present in progress between the Council and Parliament on the basic regulation on food aid.

These draft regulations contain, inter alia, rules and principles to which Parliament is opposed, such as:

- supply ceilings
- decisions as to recipients being made by the Council
- a blocking role for the management committees
- the explicit link between food aid programmes and the state of the markets in the two products concerned.

Furthermore, the Committee on Budgets considers that its position in no way jeopardizes the implementation of the food aid programmes in view of the fact that in Parliament's opinion the appropriations entered in the budget and increased by our institution specifically for 1982 can be utilized on the basis of the budget itself, without any additional legal basis being necessary.

It was pointed out in this connection that a few years ago the Commission took the same view and subsequently acted accordingly.

The Committee on Budgets would like the committee responsible to endorse its view so that Parliament's positions on the nature and scope of the basic regulations on food aid are not compromised.

Yours sincerely,

Erwin LANGE

Present: Mr Lange, chairman - Mr Notenboom, 1st vice-chairman -
Mrs Barbarella, 2nd vice-chairman - Mr Adonnino - Mr Aigner - Mr Baillet -
Mr Balfour - Mr Croux - Mr Fich - Mrs Hoff - Mr Langes - Mr Price -
Mr Konrad Schön - Mrs Scrivener - Mr Simmonds - Mr Simonnet