

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

# Working Documents

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11 December 1981

DOCUMENT 1-843/81

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. 1-605/81) for a  
regulation on the opening, allocation and  
administration of a Community tariff quota for  
frozen beef and veal falling within subheading  
02.01 A II b) of the Common Customs Tariff (1982)

Rapporteur: Mr H.-J. SEELER

PE 75.926/fin.



By letter of 9 October 1981 the President of the Council of the European Communities requested the European Parliament, pursuant to Articles 43 and 113 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 frozen beef and veal falling within subheading 02.01 A II (b) of the Common Customs Tariff (1982).

The President of the European Parliament referred this proposal to the Committee on External Economic Relations as the committee responsible and to the Committee on Agriculture for its opinion.

On 27 November 1981 the Committee on External Economic Relations appointed Mr SEELER rapporteur.

It considered this proposal at its meeting of 2 December 1981 and adopted the motion for a resolution and the explanatory statement unanimously with 1 abstention.

Present: Sir Frederick CATHERWOOD, chairman; Mrs WIECZOREK-ZEUL, first vice-chairman; Mr SEELER, rapporteur; Mr ALMIRANTE, Mrs LENZ, Mr MAJONICA, Mrs MOREAU, Mr NIKOLAOU, Lord O'HAGAN, Mr PESMAZOGLOU, Mr RADOUX, Mr RIEGER, Sir John STEWART-CLARK, Sir Frederick WARNER, Mr WELSH, Mr AIGNER (deputizing for Mr LEMMER), Mr COHEN (deputizing for Mr HÄNSCH), Mr LAGAKOS (deputizing for Mr PELIKAN) and Mrs PRUVOT (deputizing for Mr IRMER).

The Committee on External Economic Relations decided to follow the procedure without debate pursuant to Rule 34 of the European Parliament's Rules of Procedure.

The opinion of the Committee on Agriculture is attached.

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A

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 frozen beef and veal falling within subheading 02.01 A II (b) of the Common Customs Tariff (1982)

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council (COM(81) 465 final)<sup>1</sup>,
  - having been consulted by the Council pursuant to Articles 43 and 113 of the EEC Treaty (Doc. 1-605/81),
  - having regard to the report by the Committee on External Economic Relations and the opinion of the Committee on Agriculture (Doc. 1-843/81),
1. Approves the proposal for a regulation in question.

<sup>1</sup> OJ No. C 259 of 10 October 1981, p. 7

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

During the GATT multilateral negotiations the European Economic Community undertook to open a Community tariff quota for frozen beef and veal with a customs duty of 20%. The Community tariff quota was fixed at 50,000 tonnes.

Compensatory amounts introduced in connection with fluctuations in exchange rates may be levied on 16,500 tonnes of this quota.

The Commission has proposed that the total quota volume be split into two parts, one of 33,500 tonnes and the other of 16,500 tonnes, to be allocated separately among all the Member States, including Greece.

In establishing the criteria for this allocation certain problems arise because of the following circumstances. Almost all imports of frozen beef and veal into the Community of Nine have been effected under special arrangements (GATT, ACP preferential arrangements, etc.). As a result, the figures in question are not representative of the trend of imports and requirements in each of the Member States. The arrangements applied by Greece for the importation of frozen beef and veal in recent years have been considerably different from those in force in the Community.

Furthermore, in order to take account of the quantities imported by Greece which have served as a point of reference during the GATT negotiations, the Commission believes it necessary to modify the initial percentage share of Greece by comparison with the percentage share that was fixed for 1981. For this reason the Commission is proposing to modify the allocation table used in 1981 by increasing the Greek percentage to 6%.

To take account of the abovementioned difficulties in allocating the quota volume among the various Member States, the Commission has provided for the creation of Community reserves equivalent to 10% of each of the quota volumes.

More precisely, the reserves are intended to cover the possible further requirements of the Member States in cases where they have entirely used up their initial shares.

Provision is made for close cooperation between the Commission and the Member States in order to achieve an efficient allocation of the quotas and reserves.

The Committee on External Economic Relations approves the proposal for a regulation in principle and, given that it is to be applied for the period 1 January - 31 December 1982, considers that this limited period of one year should be used as a basis for drawing up the regulations for future years. At the present time there is insufficient statistical data available to justify any remarks on the proposal submitted by the Commission to the Council.

OPINION OF THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

Draftsman: Mr CLINTON

On 24 November 1981 the Committee on Agriculture appointed Mr Clinton draftsman.

It considered the draft opinion at its meeting of 2 December 1981 and adopted it by 10 votes to 3 with 8 abstentions.

Present: Mr Colleselli, vice-chairman and acting chairman; Mr Clinton, draftsman; Mr Abens (deputizing for Mr Woltjer), Mrs Barbarella, Mr Battersby, Mr Blaney (deputizing for Mr Skovmand), Mrs Castle, Mr Curry, Mr De Keersmaecker (deputizing for Mr d'Ormesson), Mr Desouches (deputizing for Mr Thareau), Mr Eyraud, Mr Fanton, Mr Früh, Mr Gautier, Mr Helms, Mr Hord, Mr Maher, Mr M. Martin (deputizing for Mr Pranchère), Mr Provan, Mr Tolman, Miss Quin.



1. The proposal for a regulation relates to the opening, allocation and administration of a Community tariff quota for frozen beef and veal, to which the Community committed itself during the GATT multilateral negotiations. The quota amounts to 50,000 tonnes, and compensatory amounts, introduced in connection with fluctuations in exchange rates, may be levied on 16,500 tonnes of this quota.

This application of the monetary compensatory amounts scheme has prompted the Commission in its proposal to split the total quota of 50,000 tonnes into two parts, one of 33,500 tonnes and the other of 16,500 tonnes, each to be allocated separately among all the Member States, including Greece.

2. The Commission is proposing a fresh allocation of these quotas among the Member States, taking into account available information concerning imports into the Community of Nine and Greece during recent years. It should be noted that in this period almost all imports of frozen beef and veal into the Community of Nine have been effected under special arrangements, e.g. GATT quotas, linked-sales systems, ACP preferential arrangements and importation for processing.

Since it is difficult to make any exact assessment of Member States' import requirements for the coming year, the proposal provides for the creation of Community reserves available to Member States when their initial quotas are exhausted.

3. In order to administer the tariff quotas, a system is being introduced by which the Member States inform the Commission when they have nearly used up their allocated quota and when they need to draw additional shares from the reserve quota.

4. Conclusion:

4.1 The Committee on Agriculture approves the Commission's proposals since they relate to the opening, allocation and administration of a Community tariff quota for frozen beef and veal, which the Community undertook to introduce during the GATT multilateral negotiations;

4.2 It observes, however, that the beef and veal market is still being greatly disrupted by trading agreements concluded between the Community and third countries. It urges the Commission to ensure that these imports have no adverse effects on the Community market for beef and veal, since this would mean that high storage costs would be incurred;

4.3 The committee also urges the Commission to pay close attention to the quality of the imported meat.

- 4.4 It also calls for the veterinary controls on the import of beef from non-member countries to be no less strict than the controls applied to intra-Community trade in beef;
- 4.5 It regrets that the European Parliament is not involved in the preparatory negotiations for international agreements and is consulted only in the final phase, which means that its opinion can have little influence on the final decision;
- 4.6 Finally, it urges the Commission to submit to the European Parliament a comprehensive report on the total imports of beef and veal from third countries, giving the quantities and the amount of the concession granted for each of the exporting countries.