

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

1983-1984

26 October 1983

DOCUMENT 1-945/83

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

tabled by Mr Christopher JACKSON

pursuant to Rule 47 of the Rules of Procedure

on the access of ACP rum products to the EEC

The European Parliament,

- A. having regard to the negotiation of a successor convention to the second Lomé Convention,
- B. whereas article 1 of the second Lomé Convention provides that a major object of this Convention is to promote trade between ACP states and the Community and that:
- 'in pursuit of the objective of promoting trade between the ACP and the Community, particular regard will be had to the need to secure effective additional benefits for the trade of the ACP states with the Community, in order to accelerate the growth of their trade and in particular the flow of their exports to the Community and in order to improve the conditions of access for their products to the market of the Community, so as to ensure a better balance in the trade of the contracting parties',
- C. whereas this aim has not been realised in the case of rum because the Council of Ministers yearly sets for the Member States duty free quotas whose rigidities form barriers which have effectively impeded real growth of exports and created obstacles to normal commercial marketing practices resulting in very considerable difficulties and disadvantages for ACP rum exporters,
- D. whereas the method of allocating the import quotas for individual EEC Member States as well as the operation of the quota system, in particular its uncertainties and the administrative and commercial problems involved, make it impossible for rum exporters to invest in sales promotion with any certainty of securing continuing customs duty-free market access,
- E. whereas the quota allocations for some EEC Member States are so small that it is commercially impracticable to attempt sales promotions or to interest distributors,
- F. rejecting the idea that the quota system is satisfactory as quotas are not always filled because
- 1) quotas inhibit end of year sales
 - 2) if the quotas are genuinely not used then they are of no effect and can be abolished,

- i. whereas, as a result of the restrictive quota system, total EEC imports of ACP rum have remained virtually static since 1974/75,
 - h. whereas there is an urgent need for all ACP countries to increase their foreign exchange earnings as much as possible,
 - ii. whereas the abolition of the restrictive import quotas would assist the rum producing ACP countries to increase their earnings of foreign exchange,
1. Asks for the abolition of the ACP rum quota system, to facilitate the free access of ACP rum to the Community;
 2. Recommends the elimination of non-tariff barriers affecting both imports and intra-Community trade in rum;
 3. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council and Commission.