

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

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3 June 1981

DOCUMENT 1-257/81

Report

drawn up on behalf of the Committee on External Economic Relations

on the proposals from the Council of the European Communities (Doc. 1-81/81) for regulations concerning the conclusion of protocols to the agreement establishing an association between the European Economic Community and the Republic of Cyprus and to the cooperation agreements between the European Economic Community and the Arab Republic of Egypt, the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the Lebanese Republic consequent on the accession of the Hellenic Republic to the Community

Rapporteur: Mr G. LEMMER

1.2.8

By letter of 13 January 1981 the President of the Council of the European Communities consulted the European Parliament pursuant to Article 238 of the Treaty on the proposals from the Council of the European Communities for regulations concerning the conclusion of protocols to the agreement establishing an association between the European Economic Community and the Republic of Cyprus and to the cooperation agreements between the European Economic Community and the Arab Republic of Egypt, the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the Lebanese Republic consequent on the accession of the Hellenic Republic to the Community.

The President of the European Parliament referred this proposal on 7 April 1981 to the Committee on External Economic Relations as the committee responsible and to the Committee on Development and Cooperation for its opinion.

On 13 April 1981 the Committee on External Economic Relations appointed Mr Lemmer rapporteur.

At its meeting on 20 May 1981 the Committee on External Economic Relations considered the draft report and the motion for a resolution and adopted it by a majority with two votes against.

Present: Sir Frederick Catherwood, chairman; Mr van Aerssen, vice-chairman; Mr Blumenfeld (deputizing for Prince Sayn-Wittgenstein-Berleburg, Mrs Caretoni Romagnoli, Mr Cohen (deputizing for Mr Martinet), Mr de Courcy Ling (deputizing for Lord O'Hagan), Mr Deschamps, Mr Irmer, Mr Nicolaou, Mr B. Nielsen (deputizing for Mr Louwes), Mr Prout (deputizing for Sir Fred Warner), Mr Rieger, Mr Seeler and Sir John Stewart-Clark.

The Opinion of the Committee on Development and Cooperation, in the form of a letter, is attached.

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

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

embodying the opinion of the European Parliament on the proposals from the Council of the European Communities for regulations concerning the conclusion of protocols to the agreement establishing an association between the European Economic Community and the Republic of Cyprus and to the cooperation agreements between the European Economic Community and the Arab Republic of Egypt, the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the Lebanese Republic consequent on the accession of the Hellenic Republic to the Community

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the texts of the Council regulations concerning the conclusion of additional protocols to the agreements between the EEC and Cyprus, Jordan, Egypt and the Lebanon respectively,
 - having been consulted by the Council pursuant to Article 238 of the EEC Treaty (Doc. 1-81/81),
 - considering the urgent need to extend to Cyprus, Jordan, Egypt and the Lebanon the contents of the agreements concluded with them by the European Community consequent upon the accession of the Hellenic Republic to the Community,
 - aware of the importance of the relations established by the Community with the Mediterranean countries as part of the general approach to Mediterranean policy,
 - having regard to the report of the Committee on External Economic Relations and the opinion of the Committee on Development and Cooperation (Doc. 1-257/81),
1. Approves as a whole the contents of the Council regulations concerning the conclusion of additional protocols to the cooperation agreements between the EEC and Cyprus, Jordan, Egypt and the Lebanon;
 2. Urges the Community to take into due consideration the capacity of the Community market to absorb the products from non-member countries imported on the basis of the concessions which the Community has granted within the context of external relations and in particular under the Mediterranean policy;
 3. Instructs its President to forward this resolution with the report of its committee to the Council and the Commission of the European Communities.

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

As a result of the accession of Greece to the Community it has become necessary to amend the text of the agreements which the Community has concluded with Cyprus, Jordan, Egypt and the Lebanon.

More specifically, it is necessary to extend to the Hellenic Republic the contents of the various agreements by means of appropriate adjustments and transitional measures.

For this reason the Hellenic Republic will be obliged progressively to abolish certain customs duties on imports applicable to products from the countries concerned, according to established timetables. It will also be obliged to abolish progressively charges having an effect equivalent to customs duties on imports and to eliminate quantitative restrictions or other customs duties on imports of products from those countries.

The Committee on External Economic Relations considers that it can approve as a whole the contents of the protocols in question. It points out that this is a normal procedure which is intended to extend to Greece the undertakings which the Community has entered into in the matter of external relations.

Although therefore, it approves on the whole the contents of the document in question it considers that it is appropriate to draw attention to a matter of general importance concerning the activities of the Community in the context of the undertakings which it has entered into, particularly under the Mediterranean policy.

It points out in this connection that the Mediterranean countries with which the Community has concluded trade agreements export to it agricultural products which are very often in competition with the production of the Mediterranean regions of the Community. The Committee therefore wishes to draw attention to the fact that in the years ahead, particularly in view of the accession of Spain and Portugal, the Community will very probably have difficulty in absorbing products from Mediterranean countries since their rate of self-sufficiency will in all likelihood be extremely high.

It therefore recommends that the Community should, in any future action it takes, allow for the difficulties which might arise from this situation.

OPINION OF THE COMMITTEE ON DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION

Letter from the chairman of the committee to Sir Frederick Catherwood,
chairman of the Committee on External Economic Relations.

18 May 1981

Dear Mr Chairman,

During its meeting on 14 May 1981 the Committee on Development and Cooperation considered, with a view to giving its opinion on them, the three proposals for regulations adapting agreements with Egypt, Jordan and the Lebanon, consequent on the accession of Greece to the European Communities.

The committee expressed satisfaction that, by signing additional protocols in the near future, Greece will become a party to the association agreements between the Community and Egypt, Jordan and the Lebanon respectively.

As quantitative restrictions and tariff quotas are involved the committee has no special observations to make in view of the fact that the transitional measures provided for have received the assent of the preferential partners of the Community concerned.

Yours sincerely,

(sgd) Michel Poniatowski

Present: Mr Poniatowski, chairman; Mr Bersani, vice-chairman; Mr Alber (deputizing for Mrs Rabbethge), Mr Cohen, Mr D'Angelosante (deputizing for Mr Pajetta), Mr De Gucht (deputizing for Mr Sablé), Mr Enright, Mrs Focke, Mr Ferrero, Mr C. Jackson, Mr Katsafados, Mr Lezzi, Mr Luster (deputizing for Mr Lücker), Mr Michel, Mr Narducci, Mr Pearce, Mr Sherlock, Mr Vergeer, Mr Vitale (deputizing for Mr Vergès) and Mr Wawrzik.

