

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

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DOCUMENT 75/79

Report

drawn up on behalf of the Committee on External Economic Relations

on the renewal of the trade agreement with Uruguay

Rapporteur: Mr R. SANDRI

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At the plenary sitting of 16 February 1979 the annexed motion for a resolution on the renewal of the trade agreement with Uruguay (Doc. 629/78) was referred to the Committee on External Economic Relations.

On 20 March 1979 the Committee on External Economic Relations appointed Mr Sandri rapporteur.

It discussed the draft report at its meeting of 4 April 1979 and adopted the motion for a resolution and the explanatory statement by 10 votes to 0 with 1 absence.

Present : Mr Martinelli, vice-chairman and acting chairman ;
Mr Sandri, rapporteur ; Mr Baas, Lord Castle, Mr Didier, Mr Fitch,
Mr Galluzzi, Lord Kennet, Mr L'Estrange, Mr Luster and Mr Müller-Hermann.

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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

on the renewal of the trade agreement with Uruguay

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the fact that the trade agreement with Uruguay¹, which entered into force on 1 August 1974, is renewable, after a three-year period, from year to year where neither party denounces it three months before the expiry date;
 - having regard to the fourth European Community - Latin American Inter-Parliamentary Conference held on 19/21 February 1979 in Rome, which devoted considerable attention to fundamental human rights and freedoms and at which members of unconstitutionally dissolved Latin-American Parliaments, including that of Uruguay, issued a common declaration;
 - having regard to the motion for a resolution (Doc. 629/78) on the renewal of the trade agreement with Uruguay, tabled pursuant to Rule 25 of the Rules of Procedure, which it referred to its Committee on External Economic Relations on 16 February 1979, the text being annexed to this report;
 - having regard to the report of the Committee on External Economic Relations (Doc. 75/79);
1. Is deeply concerned at the continuing violations of human rights in Uruguay, where numerous individuals
- are arrested without any form of trial and, in reported cases, tortured,
 - vanish without trace without the regime being prepared to give any information as to their fate,
 - are exiled abroad with or without their family;

¹ OJ No. L 333, 4.12.1973, p.1

2. Agrees that the trade agreement between the Community and Uruguay should be renewed for one year since beef and veal exports to the Community, which are a key part of the agreement, are of vital importance to the people of Uruguay, but at the same time urges the Commission and Council in no event to grant further preferences to that country as long as nothing is done to improve the situation outlined above;
3. Instructs its President to forward this resolution and the report of its committee to the Council and Commission and to the Government of Uruguay.

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

1. The trade agreement between the EEC and Uruguay entered into force on 1 August 1974. It is non-preferential in character and contains provisions for trade between the two Parties, notably in beef and veal products. It was concluded for a period of three years and is renewable for one year at a time if neither Party denounces it three months before its expiry date.
2. Because the human rights situation in Uruguay is so disturbing, a number of Members of the European Parliament have tabled a motion for a resolution calling on the Committee on External Economic Relations to draw up a report on the annual renewal of the trade agreement with Uruguay on the basis of talks with representatives of Amnesty International and exiled politicians so that Parliament can act on this matter before 1 May 1979. On 16 February this motion for a resolution was referred to the Committee on External Economic Relations.
3. The Committee on External Economic Relations points out that, while it sympathises with the content of the motion for a resolution, it does not have time to comply with every aspect of the request. It recalls in this connection the European Community - Latin American Fourth Inter-Parliamentary Conference held in Rome on 19-21 February 1979. This conference devoted close attention to fundamental human rights and freedoms. A number of representatives of unconstitutionally dissolved Latin-American Parliaments, including that of Uruguay issued a common declaration centering on the violation of human rights in their respective countries¹.
4. The Committee on External Economic Relations feels that the Trade Agreement with Uruguay must be renewed since beef and veal exports to the Community are of vital importance to the people of Uruguay. In no event, however, does this mean that additional preferences should be granted to that country as long as nothing is done to improve the human rights situation there.

¹ See Final Act (PE 57.479)

ANNEX

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION (Doc. 629/78)

tabled by Lord CASTLE, Mr PRESCOTT, Mr PATIJN, Mr DANKERT, Lord MURRAY of GRAVESEND, Mr SEEFELD, Mr VANVELTHOVEN, Mr SCHMIDT, Mr COT, Mrs DAHLERUP, Mr FELLERMAIER, Mr DONDELINGER, Mr KAVANAGH and Mr GLINNE pursuant to Rule 25 of the Rules of Procedure on the renewal of the Trade Agreement with Uruguay

The European Parliament,

- deeply concerned about the situation as regards human rights in Uruguay, where thousands of people are suffering imprisonment without warrant, trial or sentence and the use of terror is daily practice,
- in view of the annual renewal of the Trade Agreement between the European Community and Uruguay,
- drawing attention to its debate on an oral question by Mr Glinne (Doc. 544/76), at its meeting of 10 February 1977,

Calls on its Committee for External Relations to report on the annual renewal of the Trade Agreement between the European Community and Uruguay, on the basis of hearing representatives from Amnesty International and Uruguayan politicians living in exile, in order to enable the Parliament to express itself on this matter before 1 May 1979.