

# European Communities

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EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

## Working Documents

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13 September 1978

DOCUMENT 301/78

### 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. 216/78) for a  
Regulation/opening, allocating and providing for the  
administration of Community tariff quotas for certain  
wines having a registered designation of origin,  
falling within subheading ex 22.05 C of the Common  
Customs Tariff, originating in Tunisia (1978-79)

Rapporteur: Mr M. INCHAUSPE



By letter of 4 July 1978, the President of the Council of the European Communities consulted the European Parliament, pursuant to Article 43 of the Treaty establishing the EEC on the proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council for a regulation opening, allocating and providing for the administration of Community tariff quotas for certain wines having a registered designation of origin, falling within subheading ex 22.05 C of the Common Customs Tariff, originating in Tunisia (1978/1979).

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 12 September 1978 the Committee on External Economic Relations appointed Mr Inchauspé rapporteur.

It considered this proposal at its meeting of 12 September 1978.

The committee unanimously adopted the motion for a resolution and the explanatory statement at its meeting of 12 September 1978.

Present: Mr Martinelli, vice-chairman and acting chairman;  
Mr Inchauspé, rapporteur; Mr Baas, Lord Castle, Mr de Clercq, Mr Radoux,  
Mr Tolman, Mr van Aerssen and Mr Vandewiele.

The opinion of the Committee on Agriculture is attached to this report.

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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 (EEC) opening, allocating and providing for the administration of Community tariff quotas for certain wines having a registered designation of origin, falling within subheading ex 22.05 C of the Common Customs Tariff, originating in Tunisia (1978-79)

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council<sup>1</sup>,
- having been consulted by the Council pursuant to Article 43 of the EEC Treaty (Doc. 216/78 ),
- having regard to the report of the Committee on External Economic Relations and the opinion of the Committee on Agriculture (Doc. 301/78 ),

1. Approves the Commission's proposal;
2. Draws attention, however, to the need to establish effective control of the level of imports so as to ensure that the quotas provided for in this proposal are not exceeded.

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<sup>1</sup> OJ No. C 161, 7.7.1978, p.8

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

1. a) Article 13 of the Interim Agreement and Article 20 of the Cooperation Agreement between the European Economic Community and the Republic of Tunisia provide for the opening of an annual Community tariff quota of 50 000 hl for the duty-free importation into the Community of certain wines having a registered designation of origin falling within sub-heading ex 22.05 C of the CCT originating in Tunisia. These wines must be put up in containers holding two litres or less.

b) The Community has, however, declared itself willing to apply the above-mentioned provisions to wines exported in bulk during the period in question and for a volume not exceeding 20 000 hl.

To qualify for such treatment, wines in bulk must satisfy certain packaging requirements stipulating, in particular, that they may be transported only in containers holding not more than 25 hl. Given present transport conditions, however, this stipulation is causing difficulties liable to prevent Tunisia from using its allotted tariff quota for bulk wines. This is why the Commission proposes increasing the maximum limit for the containers to 200 hl for an initial quota period.

2. On the basis of the exchange of letters provided for in the Agreement in question the above-mentioned tariff measure shall be applied from 1 September 1978. Accordingly the tariff quota in question has to be opened for an initial period from 1 September 1978 until 31 August 1979.

3. The Regulation makes provision - as is usual - for the division of each of the quota volumes into two instalments, the first of which is allocated by shares amongst all member states, while the second constitutes a reserve. The allocation of the first instalment is usually based on the statistical data of the last three years and estimates for the period in question. In this case, however, neither Community nor national statistical data split up by the types of the wines in question are available and no estimates can be put forward. In these circumstances initial shares should be established for taking into account the possibilities of consumption of these wines in each of the member states.

4. Finally, the Committee on External Economic Relations draws attention to the need to establish effective control of the level of imports so as to ensure that the quotas provided for in this proposal are not exceeded.

5. Subject to the above remarks, it is proposed that the proposal for a Council Regulation opening the Community tariff quota described above should be approved.

OPINION OF THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

Letter from the Chairman of the committee to Mr KASPEREIT, Chairman of  
the Committee on External Economic Relations

Luxembourg, 5 July 1978

Dear Mr Chairman,

In order to comply with the Cooperation Agreement signed on 25 April 1976 between the Republic of Tunisia and the European Economic Community, the latter is to import, within the limits of a Community tariff quota, 50,000 hectolitres of Tunisian wine entitled to a designation of origin under Tunisian law. This wine will be exempt from CCT duties on importation into the Community over the period 1 September 1978 - 31 August 1979.

Up to 30,000 hl of this wine will be transported in containers holding 2 litres or less, and the remaining 20,000 hl, temporarily and for a transitional period, in containers of a capacity not exceeding 200 hl.

A first instalment of 25,000 hl. will be divided into fixed shares among the Member States, taking into account their respective capacities for absorption, with the second instalment constituting a reserve.

The Committee on Agriculture appreciates that the European Community cannot back out of its commitments. It nevertheless requests the Commission, on each occasion that such wine is imported, to publish a summary table of all current wine imports, thereby making it easier to determine the desirability of these imports in the light of the situation on the Community table wine market.

With this reservation, the Committee on Agriculture approves<sup>1</sup> the Commission's proposal.

Yours sincerely,

(sgd) N.A. KOFOED

<sup>1</sup> Present at the meeting on 4 July 1978: Mr Kofoed, chairman; Mr Liogier and Mr Hughes, vice-chairmen; Mr Andersen, Mr Brégégère, Mr Corrie, Mrs Dunwoody, Mr Durand, Mr Früh, Mr Howell, Mr Klinker, Mrs Krouwel-Vlam and Mr Scott-Hopkins.