
EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

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DOCUMENT 432/78

Report

drawn up on behalf of the Committee on Agriculture

on the proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council (Doc. 357/78) for a regulation on trade in oils and fats between the Community and Greece

Rapporteur: Mr F. ALBERTINI

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PE 55.756/fin.

By letter of 3 October 1978 the President of the Council of the European Communities requested the European Parliament, pursuant to Article 43 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 trade in oils and fats between the Community and Greece.

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

On 19 October 1978 the Committee on Agriculture appointed Mr Francesco ALBERTINI rapporteur.

At its meeting of 30 and 31 October 1978 it considered the proposal and adopted the motion for a resolution and the explanatory statement with 13 votes in favour and 2 abstentions.

Present: Mr Caillavet, chairman; Mr Ligios, vice-chairman; Mr Albertini, rapporteur; Mr Andersen, Mr Corrie, Mr Cunningham, Mr Dewulf, Mr Joxe, Mr Klinker, Mr Lemp, Mr L'Estrange, Mr W. Müller, Mr Ney, Mr Scott-Hopkins and Mr Tolman.

The opinion, in the form of a letter, of the Committee on External Economic Relations is attached.

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A

The Committee on Agriculture 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 trade in oils and fats between the Community and Greece

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council¹,
- having been consulted by the Council pursuant to Article 43 of the EEC Treaty (Doc. 357/78),
- having regard to the report of the Committee on Agriculture and the opinion of the Committee on External Economic Relations (Doc. 432/78),

Approves the Commission's proposal.

¹ OJ No. C 235, 5.10.1978, p. 3

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

1. The proposal under consideration is primarily of a technical nature and is designed to make permanent the system, currently in force until 31 October 1978, for fixing the import levy on olive oil originating in Greece. The procedure is as follows: importers of the product are required to indicate in their application for an import licence the rate of levy which they undertake to pay. On the basis of this information the Commission fixes a minimum levy, which also takes account of the situation on the Community market. Only those importers who have indicated a levy equal to or higher than the minimum rate fixed by the Commission will receive the import licence for the amount of oil at the rate of levy indicated by them.
2. As a second amendment to the present rules, it is proposed that a levy be also fixed for olives and olive oil cake, based on the quantity of oil contained in those products. The remaining Articles, relating to the safeguard clause etc., repeat, though in clearer terms, the rules already in force, in particular those embodied in former Regulation No. 162/66, which has been repealed.
3. The Committee on Agriculture has always supported the system of fixing the levy via a tendering procedure, and this system has in fact been generalized by Regulation No. 1562/78¹ which radically alters the old basic Regulation (see new Article 16). The system has proved to be far more effective than the old one, which made it impossible to establish clearly trends on the Greek and Community markets and therefore to afford effective protection for the Community market against imports at prices which were too low.
4. The committee therefore unreservedly approves the proposal under consideration since - as recommended by the committee on several occasions - it gives final effect to a set of provisions already in force. It should not be forgotten, moreover, that imports of olive oil from Greece, amounting to 18-20,000 tonnes per year, have not hitherto created disturbances on the Community market, as has been the case with other products, notably peaches and processed tomatoes.

¹ OJ No. L 185, 7.7.1978

OPINION OF THE COMMITTEE ON EXTERNAL ECONOMIC RELATIONS

Letter from the chairman of the committee to Mr Liogier, acting chairman of the Committee on Agriculture

Brussels, 17 October 1978

Dear Mr Chairman,

At its meeting of 17 October 1978 the Committee on External Economic Relations¹ considered a proposal for a Council regulation (EEC) on trade in oils and fats between the Community and Greece (COM(78) 423 final).

The purpose of the proposed regulation is to adapt the trade arrangements between the Community and Greece to the situation resulting from the new organization of the market in olive oil instituted by Council Regulation (EEC) No. 1562/78.

The new trade arrangements between the Community and Greece differ from the previous ones only to the extent that the possibility of using the system of tendering to fix the import levy on olive oil is now introduced on a permanent basis and that, for olives and olive oil cakes, a levy based on the minimum levy applicable to the quantity of oil contained in these products can now be fixed.

The abovementioned proposed regulation is likely to contribute, within the sector to which it refers, to increased trade between the two parties. In view of this, and of the present state of relations between the Community and Greece, the Committee on External Economic Relations, with the aim of promoting closer trade relations between the two parties, has unanimously approved the proposal for a regulation.

(sgd) Gabriel KASPEREIT

¹ Present: Lord Castle (deputizing for Mr Kaspereit), Mr Brugha, Sir Geoffrey de Freitas, Mr Fitch, Mr Inchauspé, Lord Kennet, Mr Mont, Mr Radoux, Mr Spicer and Lord St. Oswald.

