

European Communities

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

1977 - 1978

28 April 1977

DOCUMENT 77/77

ORAL QUESTION (0-5/77)

with debate, pursuant to Rule 47 of the Rules of Procedure on behalf of the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs to the Commission of the European Communities

Subject: Italian control of domestic and foreign currency in cash form

On 8 July 1976 the European Parliament debated the effects on integration policy of the Italian control regulations concerning domestic and foreign currency in cash form on the basis of an oral question by the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs to the Commission (Doc. 195/76).

The Vice-President of the Commission, Mr HAFERKAMP, explained, inter alia, that in the Commission's view the application of control measures should cause as little disturbance as possible to free movement into Italy. The Italian authorities had, moreover, reported at the end of June that official inquiries would be initiated into the possibility of errors having been committed in the control and confiscation of currency. It was agreed, furthermore, that the sums confiscated would be returned to their owners except where attempted fraud could not be ruled out.

The Commission is asked to inform Parliament of the results of the inquiries instigated by the Italian authorities.

European Communities

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

1977-1978

28 April 1977

DOCUMENT 78/77

ORAL QUESTION (0-8/77)

with debate pursuant to Rule 47 of the Rules of Procedure

by Mr COUSTÉ, on behalf of the Group of European Progressive Democrats

to the Council of the European Communities

Subject: Multifibre Agreement

The Multifibre Agreement has not produced the expected satisfactory results. In fact, since its entry into force, the Community market has been hit by massive imports of similar products from a number of third countries.

While there is unanimous agreement on the need for changes to put an end to this situation and prevent its recurrence in the future, opinions differ on the means of achieving this goal.

Does the Council believe that the solution favoured by the Commission, namely, to fix an internal ceiling on overall volume for a number of particularly sensitive products offers the same safeguards against the flooding of the EEC market with textile products as the adoption of overall quotas?

How does the Council plan to ensure compliance by third countries with such ceilings fixed unilaterally by the Community?

PE 48.428

European Communities

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

446.5

Working Documents

1977 - 1978

9 May 1977

DOCUMENT 79/77

Report

drawn up on behalf of the Committee on Agriculture

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on the proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council (Doc. 51/77) for a directive amending Directive 72/159/EEC on the modernization of farms

Rapporteur: Mr C. LABAN

1

PE 48.576/fin.

By letter of 7 April 1977 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 directive amending Directive 72/159/EEC on the modernization of farms.

The President of the European Parliament referred this proposal to the Committee on Agriculture.

On 26/27 April 1977 the Committee on Agriculture appointed Mr Laban rapporteur.

It considered this proposal at the same meeting and adopted the motion for a resolution and the explanatory statement by 11 votes with one abstention.

Present: Mr Houdet, chairman; Mr Laban, vice-chairman and rapporteur; Mr Albertini, Mr De Koning, Mrs Dunwoody, Mr Früh, Mr Guerlin, Mr Ove Hansen, Mr Howell, Mr Kofoed, Mr Ney and Mr Pisoni.

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 directive amending Directive 72/159/EEC on the modernization of farms

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. 51/77);
- having regard to the report of the Committee on Agriculture (Doc. 79/77);

Approves the Commission's proposal.

¹OJ No. C 88, 13.4.1977, p. 4

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

The vast majority of Member States are currently taking advantage of the possibility offered by Article 14 (2) (a) of Directive 72/159/EEC on the modernization of farms to grant temporary investment aids to farms which are not capable of attaining a comparable level of earned income and which are not yet eligible for the annuities provided for in the directive concerning measures to encourage the cessation of farming.

Under Article 14(2) (a) of the modernization directive, the period during which such temporary aid may be granted is due to end five years after the date on which the directive took effect, i.e. on 17 April 1977.

The Commission's proposal aims to extend this period to 31 December 1977, since it considers it reasonable to allow Member States to grant temporary aid pending the outcome of the investigation that the Council, pursuant to Article 16(2), will carry out on a proposal from the Commission five years after the entry into force of the directive. This review will be carried out in the light of the conclusions of the report submitted by the Commission each year by 1 August to Parliament and the Council on the application of Community and national measures taken to implement the directives on structural policy.

When the results of the Community structural policy are discussed by the Council, it will be possible to take decisions on the adaptation of this policy, including the temporary aids currently granted by many Member States.

Since the Community structural policy will not be discussed by the Council until later on in the year, it does indeed seem useful to extend by a few months the period during which temporary aids may be granted pending the outcome of the review of this policy.

The Committee on Agriculture therefore approves this proposal.

European Communities

443.113,2
EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

1977 - 1978

9 May 1977

DOCUMENT 80/77

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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. 10/77) for a regulation on the opening, allocation and administration of a Community tariff quota for certain eels falling within sub-heading ex 03.01 A II of the Common Customs Tariff
(1 July 1977 – 30 June 1978)

Rapporteur: Mr E. A. KLEPSCH
11

PE 48.317/fin.

By letter of 15 March 1977, 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 the opening, allocation and administration of a Community tariff quota for certain eels falling within sub-heading ex 03.01 A II of the Common Customs Tariff (1 July 1977-30 June 1978).

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 30 March 1977 the Committee on External Economic Relations appointed Mr Klepsch rapporteur.

It considered this proposal at its meeting of 26 April 1977.

At the same meeting the committee unanimously adopted the motion for a resolution and the explanatory statement.

The committee decided to request that the report be considered without debate in plenary sitting.

Present: Mr Kaspereit, chairman; Mr Schmidt and Mr Martinelli, vice-chairmen; Mr Klepsch, rapporteur; Mr Van Aerssen, Mr De Clercq, Mr Didier, Mr Müller-Hermann (deputizing for Mr Kunz), Mr Price, Mr Pucci, Mr Thornley and Mr Vandewiele.

The opinion of the Committee on Agriculture is attached.

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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 on the opening, allocation and administration of a Community tariff quota for certain eels falling within subheading ex 03.01 A II of the Common Customs Tariff (1 July 1977 - 30 June 1978)

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. 10/77);
- having regard to the report by the Committee on External Economic Relations and the opinion of the Committee of Agriculture (Doc. 80/77);

Approves the proposal for a regulation.

¹ OJ No. C 67, 17.3.1977, p. 4

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

1. In recent years, eel fishing in certain Community fishing areas has been forbidden or made impossible by water pollution. Efforts were made to increase production in other areas in order to compensate at least for the reduction in the quantities available. Despite these efforts, it was observed that Community production was still insufficient to supply the demands of the Member States' fish-processing industries.

2. This situation prompted the Council - on a proposal from the Commission - to open from 1971 a duty-free Community tariff quota for certain fresh eels. Since that date, a regulation has been issued on this matter each year by the Council.

There has been no appreciable improvement subsequently in the situation on the markets of the sector in question.

3. In the course of 1976, it was decided, at the request of the authorities of the Federal Republic of Germany, to change the annual tariff quota period to the period from 1 July to 30 June of each year (instead of 1 January - 31 December), so that the quota might correspond better to trade requirements, the fishing season being mainly in the autumn.

4. The Commission considers it desirable to open a Community tariff quota, for the period 1 July 1977 - 30 June 1978 inclusive, for a quantity of 6,000 tonnes, this corresponding fairly closely to the Member States' estimated requirements for imports from third countries. Any subsequent requirements could be covered by decision to increase the quota volume following a re-examination of the situation.

5. As regards the sub-division of the above-mentioned quota of 6,000 tonnes, a first tranche of 4,800 tonnes is allocated among Member States according to requirements. The balance of 1,200 tonnes will constitute the Community reserve.

6. As in previous years, the Committee on External Economic Relations considers that the proposal can be approved without modification.

OPINION OF THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

Letter from Mr Houdet, chairman of the Committee on Agriculture, to
Mr Kaspereit, chairman of the Committee on External Economic Relations

Brussels, 27 April, 1977

Dear Mr Chairman,

At its meeting of 26-27 April 1977¹ the Committee on Agriculture discussed the proposal from the Commission of the European Communities for a draft Council regulation on the opening, allocation and administration of a Community tariff quota for certain eels falling within subheading ex 03.01 A II of the Common Customs Tariff (1 July 1977 to 30 June 1978) (COM(77) 40 fin).

As Community production of eels has shown a downward trend in recent years, supplies to the fish-processing industry can be assured only if a substantial proportion of the eels required are imported. Consequently, since 1971, an annual Community tariff quota has been opened for certain eels in order to compensate for the lower Community production.

For the present tariff quota period, which runs from 1 July 1977 to 30 June 1978 inclusive, the opening of a duty-free Community tariff quota of 6,000 tonnes is proposed. As in previous years, it is envisaged that the quota will be subdivided into a first tranche and a reserve to be used when the original tranche is used up. The first tranche, to be allocated among the Member States, consists of 4,800 tonnes, the remaining 1,200 tonnes forming the Community reserve.

As usual, import requirements are based on estimates by the Member States, which evidently vary considerably.

The Commission therefore proposes that the fixing of the quota at 6,000 tonnes should not preclude a readjustment during the quota period.

The Committee on Agriculture, however, considers that it would be highly desirable for the Commission, before opening a quota, to attempt to obtain reliable data on the anticipated market situation, so that the shortfall to be covered by imports may be more accurately determined. Ad hoc modifications to the quota could thus be avoided.

¹Present: Mr Houdet, chairman; Mr Laban, vice-chairman; Mr Albertini, Lord Brimelow (deputizing for Mr Frankie Hansen), Mr De Keersmaeker (deputizing for Mr Creed), Mr De Koning, Mrs Dunwoody, Mr Früh, Mr Guerlin, Mr Ove Hansen, Mr Hoffmann, Mr Hughes, Mr Hunault, Mr Klinker, Mr Pisoni and Lord St Oswald (deputizing for Mr Scott-Hopkins).

As the situation in respect of eel supplies has remained unchanged as compared with previous years, it would seem desirable to open a Community tariff quota for a further period of one year. While pointing out that a constant watch must be kept on the market situation and that continued efforts must be made to improve the reliability of statistics, the Committee on Agriculture has no objections to this proposal.

(sgd.) Roger HOUDET
Chairman