

# European Communities

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EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

# Working Documents

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6 July 1977

DOCUMENT 206/77

## Report

drawn up on behalf of the Committee on External Economic Relations

on the proposals from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council (Doc. 151/77) for

- I. a regulation extending the arrangements applicable to trade with Malta beyond the date of expiry of the first stage of the Association Agreement
- II. a regulation extending the arrangements applicable to trade with the Republic of Cyprus beyond the date of expiry of the first stage of the Associations Agreement

Rapporteur: Mr. J.W. SPICER

PE 49.341/fin.



By letter of 7 June 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 proposals from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council for

- a regulation extending the arrangements applicable to trade with Malta beyond the date of expiry of the first stage of the Association Agreement,
- a regulation extending the arrangements applicable to trade with the Republic of Cyprus beyond the date of expiry of the first stage of the Association Agreement.

The President of the European Parliament referred these proposals to the Committee on External Economic Relations.

On 22 June 1977 the Committee on External Economic Relations appointed Mr Spicer rapporteur.

It considered these proposals at its meeting of 22 June 1977.

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

Present: Mr Kaspereit, chairman and acting rapporteur; Mr Bersani, Lord Brimelow, Lord Castle, Mr De Clercq, Mr L'Estrange, Mr Maigaard, Mr Pintat and Mr Vandewiele.

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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 proposals from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council

- for a regulation extending the arrangements applicable to trade with Malta beyond the date of expiry of the first stage of the Association Agreement, and
- for a regulation extending the arrangements applicable to trade with the Republic of Cyprus beyond the date of expiry of the first stage of the Association Agreement

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the proposals from the Commission of the European Communities<sup>1</sup>,
- having been consulted by the Council pursuant to Article 43 of the EEC Treaty (Doc. 151/77),
- having regard to the report of the Committee on External Economic Relations (Doc. 206/77),

approves the Commission's proposals.

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<sup>1</sup> OJ No. C 135, 8.6.1977, p. 2

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

Malta

1. On 5 December 1970, the Community, then consisting of six countries, and Malta signed an agreement establishing an association between the two parties<sup>1</sup>. This agreement took effect on 1 April 1971.

Article 2 of this agreement reads as follows:

1. The aim of the Agreement is progressively to eliminate obstacles as regards the main body of trade between the European Economic Community and Malta and thus to contribute to the development of international trade.

2. The Agreement provides for two successive stages, the first of a duration of five years and the second of a duration, in principle, also of five years.

3. Negotiations are provided for during the eighteen months preceding the expiry of the first stage, with a view to defining the content of the second stage, providing for a further elimination of obstacles to trade between the European Economic Community and Malta and the adoption by Malta of the Common Customs Tariff.

2. This Association Agreement was adapted and extended on 4 March 1976<sup>2</sup> by:

- a Protocol laying down certain provisions relating to the Agreement establishing an association between the European Economic Community and Malta and certain transitional and adaptation measures, rules applying to certain agricultural products, measures to achieve cooperation and five declarations and an exchange of letters;
- a Protocol concerning the definition of 'originating products' and methods of administrative cooperation, together with a declaration;
- a Financial Protocol together with a declaration and an exchange of letters,

which the European Parliament approved on 5 April 1976<sup>3</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> OJ No. L 61, 14.3.1971

<sup>2</sup> OJ No. L 111, 28.4.1976

<sup>3</sup> OJ No. C 100, 3.5.1976 - Spicer Report (Doc. 16/76)

3. Since the first stage expired on 31 March 1976 and negotiations on the second stage could not be opened in time, the Association Agreement (and the Protocols referred to above) were extended for the period 1 April 1976 - 30 June 1977. On 12 March 1976 the European Parliament approved this extension<sup>1</sup>.

4. It now proves necessary for the Association Agreement to be extended again since the Commission considers it impossible for the Protocols leading up to the 'second stage' - negotiations on which are still in progress - to come into force before 1 July 1977. In this draft regulation the Commission therefore proposes autonomously extending the Association Agreements until the entry into force of the additional protocol or until 31 December 1977 at the latest.

#### Cyprus

5. The Association Agreement with Cyprus was signed on 19 December 1972<sup>2</sup>.

Article 2 of this Agreement, mutatis mutandis, is identical to the provision in the Agreement with Malta quoted above except in paragraph 2 which lays down:

'2. The Agreement provides for two successive stages, the first terminating on 30 June 1977 and the second of a duration, in principle, of five years'.

6. For the same reasons as those quoted above with reference to Malta, the Commission proposes extending the Association Agreement with Cyprus also until the entry into force of the additional protocols or until 31 December 1977 at the latest.

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<sup>1</sup> OJ No. C 79, 5.4.1976 - Spicer Report (Doc. 12/76)

<sup>2</sup> OJ No. L 133, 21.5.1973

