

European Communities

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

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Report

drawn up on behalf of the Committee on Agriculture

on the proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council (Doc. 80/73) for a regulation temporarily/suspending the autonomous duties in the Common Customs Tariff on a number of agricultural products

Rapporteur: Mr L. MARTENS

PE 33.298/fin.

By letter dated 22 May 1973, 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 temporarily suspending the autonomous duties in the Common Customs Tariff on a number of agricultural products.

The European Parliament referred this proposal to the Committee on Agriculture on 4 June 1973.

The Committee on Agriculture appointed Mr Martens as rapporteur.

It discussed this proposal during the meeting of 5 June 1973, and adopted the motion for a resolution and explanatory statement by 10 votes for and one against.

The following were present: Mr Houdet, chairman; Mr Martens, rapporteur; Mr Briot, Mr Duval (deputizing for Mr Hunault), Mr Frehsee, Mr Früh, Mr Héger, Mr Lefèbvre, Mr Liogier, Miss Lulling, Mr Scott-Hopkins.

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 temporarily suspending the autonomous duties in the Common Customs Tariff on a number of agricultural products.

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the proposal of the Commission of the European Communities to the Council (COM (73) 761 final);
 - having been consulted by the Council, pursuant to Article 43 of the Treaty establishing the EEC (Doc. 80/73);
 - having regard to the report by the Committee on Agriculture (Doc. 93/73).
1. Approves the Commission's proposal;
 2. Invites the Commission nevertheless to submit to it a report on the reasons for the inadequate supplies of certain of the agricultural products referred to in the proposal;
 3. Urges that, within the framework of environmental policy, the Council, on a proposal from the Commission and after receiving the opinion of the European Parliament, take all necessary measures for effectively combating water pollution, which is in part responsible for the decline in Community production in the fisheries sector;
 4. Instructs its President to forward this resolution and the report of its committee to the Council and Commission of the European Communities.

B.

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

The Committee on Agriculture has already had to consider on several occasions various proposals for regulations suspending the autonomous duties in the Common Customs Tariff in respect of a number of agricultural products.

It notes that, instead of presenting part proposals, the Commission has this time preferred to bring together in one proposal a number of agricultural products, in particular products of the fisheries sector.

The Committee on Agriculture endorses the Commission's proposals and the relevant explanations in the explanatory statement.

It reiterates the hope, already expressed in the past, that the Commission will submit to the European Parliament and the Council a more detailed report on the reasons for the inadequate supplies that have led to the suspension of tariff duties (zero-duty or reduced-duty as the case may be) to allow the Community processing industry to remain competitive vis-à-vis third countries.

In the committee's view, the report should contain suggestions for specific measures in the fisheries sector. Such measures should of course be combined with more general environmental measures, especially measures to combat the pollution of both sea and river water in traditional fishing areas.