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# Working Documents

1973-1974

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5 July 1973

DOCUMENT 136/73

## Report

drawn up on behalf of the Committee on Agriculture

in the proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council (Doc. 129/73) for a regulation extending for the second time the period of validity of Regulations (EEC) Nos. 2313/71 and 2823/71, on the temporary partial suspension of the common customs tariff duties on wine originating in and coming from Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia and Turkey

Rapporteur: Mr F. VALS

PE 33.723/fin.



By letter of 28 June 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 extending for the second time the period of validity of Regulations (EEC) Nos. 2313/71 and 2823/71, on the temporary partial suspension of the common customs tariff duties on wine originating in and coming from Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia and Turkey.

On 3 July 1973 Parliament referred this proposal to the Committee on Agriculture, as the committee responsible, and to the Committee on External Economic Relations for its opinion.

The Committee on Agriculture appointed Mr Vals rapporteur. At its meeting of 4 July 1973 it discussed this proposed regulation and unanimously adopted the motion for a resolution.

The following were present: Mr Houdet, chairman; Mr Vals, rapporteur, Mr Brugger, Mr Früh, Mr Héger, Mr John Hill, Mr Hunault, Mr de Koning, Mr Laban, Mr Liogios, Mr Liogier and Miss Lulling.

The opinion of the Committee on External Economic Relations is attached.

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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 extending for the second time the period of validity of Regulations (EEC) No 2313/71 and 2823/71 on the temporary partial suspension of the common customs tariff duties on wine originating in and coming from Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia and Turkey

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council (Doc. COM (73) 1053 final).
- having been consulted by the Council pursuant to Article 43 of the Treaty establishing the EEC (Doc. 129/73).
- having regard to the report of the Committee on Agriculture and the opinion of the Committee on External Economic Relations (Doc. 136/73).

1. approves the Commission's proposal;
2. instructs its President to forward this resolution and the report of its committee to the Council and Commission of the European Communities.



EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

1. The Committee on Agriculture was instructed to examine a proposal for a Council regulation extending for the second time the period of validity of Regulations (EEC) No 2313/71 and 2823/71 on the temporary partial suspension of the common customs tariff duties on wine originating in and coming from Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia and Turkey.
2. The European Parliament has on many previous occasions considered the problem of the arrangements to be applied to wine originating in and coming from countries in the Mediterranean basin, and particularly wine originating in the Maghreb countries.

The European Parliament has dealt with this question in several reports by Mr VALS (Doc. 129/70, 156/71 and 99/72).

Your rapporteur does not intend to repeat the arguments put forward at the time which led to the conclusion that it would be expedient to replace the many import arrangements existing in the various Community countries by a single system applicable throughout its territory. This single system consists of the reduction of tariff duties to 60% of the common customs tariff, with the proviso that these imports must respect the Community reference price.

This system was brought into effect on 1 November 1971 (Regulation No 2313/71 of 29 October 1971, O.J. L244, 30 October 1971) and extended until 31 August 1973 (Regulation No 1567/72 of 20 July 1972, O.J. L167, 25 July 1972).

3. The European Parliament has now been asked for its opinion on a further extension of this regulation until 31 August 1974.

The Committee on Agriculture feels bound to point out once again that the Commission submitted this proposal to it for examination at a very late date and it would have been inclined not to pronounce on it at this part-session (July 1973) had the Commission not invoked, to justify the delay, the fact that it found it difficult to request an overall mandate to negotiate within the framework of the agreements to be concluded with the countries of the Mediterranean basin and at the same time to submit a proposal for an extension of the validity of the regulation now in force. Pending these negotiations it is important to maintain the status quo so that a legal vacuum does not arise after 1 September 1973.

4. From the economic angle, the committee has noted that the system currently in force does not impede the functioning of the common agricultural market in wine products, insofar as the reference price is respected.

While urging the Commission to use every means in its power to ensure that the reference price is complied with, the Committee on Agriculture has given a favourable opinion on the proposal for a regulation.



O P I N I O N

of the Committee on External Economic Relations

Strasbourg, 4 July 1973

Committee on External  
Economic Relations

- The Chairman -

Mr Roger Houdet  
Chairman of the Committee on  
Agriculture,  
Europe House,  
STRASBOURG

Dear Mr President,

I have just seen Document 129/73 on the proposed regulation on the temporary suspension of the common customs tariff duties on wine originating in and coming from Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia and Turkey (COM(73) 1053 fin.) on which Parliament has just been consulted as a matter of urgency.

Since this proposal is one that extends for the second time regulations on the temporary partial suspension of customs duties, on which the Committee on External Economic Relations had already delivered a favourable opinion at the time of the first renewal, I am now forwarding you another favourable opinion.

Yours sincerely,

Christian de la MALÈNE

