

European Communities

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Working Documents

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DOCUMENT 291/73

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. 240/73) for a regulation ~~on~~ customs treatment to be applied to certain fishery products originating in Norway

Rapporteur : Mr K. THOMSEN

PE 35.097/fin.

By letter of 20 November 1973 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 customs treatment to be applied to certain fishery products originating in Norway (Doc. 240/73).

On 10 December 1973 the President of the European Parliament referred this proposal to the Committee on External Economic Relations as the committee responsible and the Committee on Agriculture as the committee asked for its opinion.

The Committee on External Economic Relations appointed Mr THOMSEN as rapporteur on 29 November 1973.

It considered this proposal at its meeting of 12 December 1973.

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

The following were present : Mr Boano, Vice-President, Mr Klepsch, Mr Lange, Lord Lothian, Sir John Peel, Mr Scholten, Mr Thornley.

The opinion of the Committee on Agriculture is attached.

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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 proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council for a regulation on customs treatment to be applied to certain fishery products originating in Norway

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council (COM (73) 1738 final),
- having been consulted by the Council pursuant to article 43 of the Treaty establishing the EEC, (Doc. 240/73),
- having regard to the report of the Committee on External Economic Relations (Doc.291/73) and the opinion of the Committee on Agriculture,

1. Approves the proposal for a regulation;
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 Report of the Committee on External Economic Relations referred in its report on the agreement between the EEC and Norway (PE 33.970 final) to the concessions in the fisheries sector to be granted to Norway. These concessions, in the form of an autonomous reduction of customs duties on certain fishery products originating in Norway, were granted by an exchange of letters on 16 April 1973. The purpose of the present proposal for a regulation is to give effect to these reductions.
2. The products to which the reductions relate include frozen fish fillets and certain other prepared fillets, sprats, crabs, shrimps and prawns. The reductions are to take place on 1 January 1974, 1975, 1976 and 1977 and the final reduction will be on 1 July 1977. In the case of all the products except sprats, crabs, shrimps and prawns, they reduce the duty by equal steps of 3% from 12% on 1 January 1974 to 3% on 1 July 1977. The reductions will be made by the six original member countries of the EEC.
3. These reductions will be offset to some extent, however, by increases in the duties imposed by Denmark and the United Kingdom. Whereas most of these products are exempt from import duties in those two countries at present, duties will now be imposed gradually until by 1 July 1977 they will be in line with those charged by the other members of the EEC.
4. The proposal for a regulation also lays down a definition of products originating in Norway.
5. The proposed regulation gives effect to concessions which have already been approved in principle by the Committee on External Economic Relations and on Agriculture and by the European Parliament. The concessions are not large, but they are important to Norway. The Committee therefore has no objection to the proposal for a regulation, which it approves without modification.

OPINION OF THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

Letter from Mr HOUDET, Chairman of the Committee on Agriculture,
to Mr de la MALENE, Chairman of the Committee on External
Economic Relations

Dear Mr Chairman,

At its meeting of 22 November 1973 in Brussels the Committee on Agriculture discussed a proposal for a Council Regulation on customs treatment to be applied to certain fishery products originating in Norway (Doc.240/73).

The Committee on Agriculture has instructed me to forward to you the following opinion which was compiled during the abovementioned meeting on the basis of an oral report by Mr Baas, draftsman of the opinion.

The proposal in question concerns the application of the text of an exchange of letters which took place between the Norwegian Government and the Council of the European Communities on 14 May 1973 in connection with the signing of the trade agreement between the EEC and Norway.

The Committee on Agriculture notes that although the European Parliament was not consulted in advance on the Council's decision as contained in the exchange of letters - the appropriate parliamentary committees considered the trade agreement and the exchange of letters in accordance with the 'Luns procedure' - the Parliament is now being consulted on the implementation of the provisions contained in the exchange of letters.

With regard to the content of the proposed regulation, the Committee on Agriculture listened to a speech given by the representative of the Commission of the European Communities on the concessions contained in the exchange of letters at its meeting of 26-27 September 1973 in The Hague.

It can only confirm that the Commission's proposal accords with the concessions made to Norway by the Council, according to the Commission, on 14 May 1973, on which it delivered an opinion, on its own initiative, at the time to the Committee on External Relations (see Doc. 161/73). It has consequently now decided to deliver a favourable opinion on the proposal in question.

This opinion was adopted by twelve votes to one ¹.

Yours faithfully,

(sgd.) R. HOUDET

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The following were present: Mr Houdet, chairman, Mr Baas, draftsman of the opinion; Mr Brugger, Mr Creed, Mr Frehsee, Mr Fröh, Mr Lemoine, Mr Ligios, Mr Liogier, Mr Martens, Mr Scott-Hopkins and Mr Vals.

