

European Communities

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Working Documents

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DOCUMENT 293/73

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. 274/73) for a regulation on imports of olive oil from Turkey

Rapporteur : Sir Tufton BEAMISH

By letter of 5 December 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 a proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council for a regulation on imports of olive oil from Turkey (Doc. 274/73).

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 Sir Tufton BEAMISH rapporteur on 11 October 1973.

It considered this regulation 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.

C O N T E N T S

	<u>Page</u>
A. MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION	5
B. EXPLANATORY STATEMENT	7
Opinion of the Committee on Agriculture	8

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 imports of olive oil from Turkey.

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the proposals from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council (COM (73) 1270 final),
- having been consulted by the Council pursuant to Article 43 of the EEC Treaty (Doc. 274/73),
- having regard to the report by the Committee on External Economic Relations and the opinion of the Committee on Agriculture (Doc. 293/73),

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. Article 7 of Annex 5 to the Interim Agreement between the European Economic Community and Turkey as last amended by the agreement signed in Ankara on 30 June 1973 provides for special arrangements for imports into the Community of virgin olive oil originating in that country.

The application of these arrangements has not, however, produced the anticipated economic results as their effective operation depends, in effect, on the goodwill of importers in the Community. On importing the oil, importers may either pay the third country levy less 0.50 u.a. per 100 kg. (a trade benefit allowed to Turkey in the form of a flat rate abatement) or pay the same levy, less the amount of the export tax which they have refunded to the exporter.

In both cases the overall cost to the Community importer is the same, and there is no advantage in refunding the export tax; this may be to the detriment of the exporter who has already had to pay the tax to his government at the time of export.

2. The proposal for a regulation submitted to our committee for consideration modifies the arrangements in force by providing that, in the event of application of the export tax by Turkey the trade advantage would only be granted to the Community importer if the special export tax is refunded.

The two proposals set out rules for implementing the provisions of the import arrangements modified as outlined above. In the opinion of the committee, they would have the same financial implications on the levies as the arrangements at present in force.

3. The proposed modifications are purely technical and do not alter the nature of the advantages allowed to Turkey in respect of imports of olive oil from that country into the Community.

The Committee on External Economic Relations has no objections to this proposal for a regulation and approves it in its present form.

OPINION OF THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

Letter to the Chairman of the Committee on External Economic Relations

13 December 1973

Dear Mr Chairman,

The proposal from the Commission to the Council for

- the agreement, in the form of an exchange of letters, with Turkey, on the amendment of Article 7 of Annex 6 to the Additional Protocol (new arrangements for Community imports of non-refined olive oil from Turkey) signed in Brussels on 23 November 1973;
- an implementing regulation on imports of olive oils from Turkey (Doc. 274/73);

was referred to the Committee on Agriculture for an opinion. The committee has instructed me to advise you that at its meeting on 12 December 1973, it discussed the proposal and, finding no objection to it, approved it unanimously¹. The committee has requested me to notify the Committee on External Economic Relations by letter of its favourable opinion.

(sgd.) Roger HOUDET

¹The following were present: Mr Laban, vice-chairman and acting chairman; Mr Vetrone, vice-chairman; Mr Brugger, Mr Creed, Mr Frehsee, Mr Fröh, Mr John Hill, Mr Hunault, Mr de Koning, Mr Lemoine, Miss Lulling, Mr Martens and Lord St. Oswald.