

European Communities

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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. 398/73) for a regulation amending Regulation (EEC) No. 3574/73 of the Council of 27 December 1973 on the ~~total~~ or partial suspension of Common Customs Tariff duties on certain agricultural products originating in Turkey

Rapporteur: Mr G. BOANO

PE 36.149/fin.

By letter of 5 March 1974 the President of the Council of the European Communities consulted the European Parliament on the proposal for a regulation submitted by the Commission to the Council to amend Regulation (EEC) No. 3574/73 of the Council of 27 December 1973 on the total or partial suspension of Common Customs Tariff duties on certain agricultural products originating in Turkey.

By letter of 8 March 1974 the President of the European Parliament referred the proposal to the Committee on External Economic Relations as the committee responsible and to the Committee on Agriculture for its opinion.

On 5 March 1974 the committee appointed Mr BOANO rapporteur. At the same meeting it considered the draft report and unanimously approved the motion for a resolution and the explanatory statement.

The following were present: Mr Boano, rapporteur and acting chairman; Mr Thomsen, vice-chairman; Sir Tufton Beamish, Mr Kaspereit, Mr De Koning, Mr Lange, Mr Ligios, Mr Emile Muller, Sir John Peel, Mr Sandri, Mr Scholten, Mr Thornley.

The opinion of the Committee on Agriculture is attached to this report.

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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 amending Regulation (EEC) No. 3574/73 of the Council of 27 December 1973 for the total or partial suspension of Common Customs Tariff duties on certain agricultural products originating in Turkey.

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council (COM(74) 231/fin.);
 - having been consulted by the Council pursuant to Articles 43 and 113 of the EEC Treaty (Doc. 398/73);
 - having regard to the report of the Committee on External Economic Relations and the opinion of the Committee on Agriculture (Doc. 404/73);
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. The Council decided that from 1 January 1974 Turkey should benefit from trade conditions not less favourable than those offered to countries enjoying generalized preferences.

2. Council Regulation No. 3574/73 of 27 December 1973 gave effect to this decision by granting Turkey total or partial suspension of common customs tariff duties on products listed in Chapters 1 to 24 of the Generalized Preferences for which customs treatment under the EEC-Turkey Treaty is less favourable.¹

3. Article 1(2) of the Council regulation referred to above incorrectly states that duties to be applied from 1 January 1972 by new Member States to certain agricultural products originating in Turkey should be referred to duties actually applied to Turkey on 1 January 1972.

The proposal for a regulation under consideration is intended to correct this error by substituting reference to the lowest duties which were applied at that date to countries considered as developing countries.

4. Attention is drawn to the fact that the committee has already expressed a favourable opinion on the matter.²

In view of the fact that the financial implications of the proposed regulation are negligible, the committee is of the opinion that the Council's proposal should be adopted.

¹ OJ L 359, 28 December 1973, p.17

² Report on a proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council (Doc. 267/73) for a regulation on the total or partial suspension of Common Customs Tariff duties on certain agricultural products originating in Turkey - Rapporteur: Mr G. BOANO (Doc. 294/73).

OPINION OF THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

Letter from Mr Cornelis LABAN, vice-chairman, to Mr Christian de la MALÈNE, chairman of the Committee on External Economic Relations

Luxembourg, 5 March 1974

Dear Mr Chairman,

The Committee on Agriculture has been asked for its opinion on the proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council for a regulation amending Regulation (EEC) No. 3574/73 of the Council of 27 December 1973 on the total or partial suspension of Common Customs Tariff duties on certain agricultural products originating in Turkey.

The proposed amendment consists in replacing the words 'the duties actually applied to Turkey on 1 January 1972' in the last line of Article 1, paragraph 1, of Regulation No. 3574/73 by the words 'the lowest duties applied to developing countries on 1 January 1972' in regard to the method of determining the duties to be applied in the three new Member States on imports of certain agricultural products from Turkey.

It will be recalled that by the aforementioned Regulation No. 3574/73 the Community granted tariff concessions to Turkey so that it might benefit from the same advantages accorded under the scheme of generalized preferences to developing countries in accordance with the provisions laid down in Regulation 3506/73 (OJ L 358, 28 December 1973).

It is precisely with a view to establishing this equality of treatment for Turkey and those countries enjoying generalized preferences that the proposed amendment now under consideration becomes necessary, the purpose of which is after all to harmonize the text of the regulation for Turkey with that drawn up in respect of generalized preferences.

In view of the fact that Regulation No. 3574/73, if retained in its original form, would mean a marked differentiation in treatment between products originating in Turkey and products originating in developing countries enjoying generalized preferences, the Committee on Agriculture unanimously approved the proposal under consideration. The Committee on Agriculture has asked me to inform you by letter of its favourable opinion agreed upon at its meeting of 28 February and 1 March 1974 when the following members were present: Mr Vetrone, vice-chairman, Mr Aigner (deputizing for Mr Lückner), Mr Brugger, Mr Della Briotta (deputizing for

Mr Cifarelli), Mr Frehsee, Mr Harmegnies (deputizing for Mrs Orth),
Mr de Koning, Mr Ligios, Mr Liogier, Mr Premoli (deputizing for Mr
Lefèbvre).

Yours sincerely,

Vice-chairman of the Committee on
Agriculture
(Cornelis Laban)

