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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 (COM(85) 841 final - Doc. C 2-168/85) for a regulation opening for 1986, as an autonomous measure, a special import quota for high quality, fresh, chilled or frozen beef falling within subheadings 02.01 A II(a) and 02.01 A II(b) of the Common Customs Tariff and on the Commission's amended proposal (COM(86) 85 final)

Rapporteur: Mr M. J. HINDLEY

WG(VS1)3527E

PE 104.127/fin.  
Or. Fr.



By letter of 24 January 1986 the President of the Council of the European Communities requested the European Parliament, pursuant to Articles 43 and 113 of the EEC Treaty, to deliver an opinion on the proposal from the Commission of the European Communities for a regulation opening for 1986, as an autonomous measure, a special import quota for high quality, fresh, chilled or frozen beef falling within subheadings 02.01 A II (a) and 02.01 A II (b) of the Common Customs Tariff and on the Commission's amended proposal.

On 29 January 1986 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, Fisheries and Food and the Committee on Budgets for their opinions.

At its meeting of 26 February 1986 the committee decided to apply the simplified consideration procedure provided for in Rule 99(2) of the Rules of Procedure; its chairman was thereby appointed rapporteur.

Having received no objections, the chairman noted that the report was adopted.

The opinions of the Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries and Food and the Committee on Budgets are attached.

The report was tabled on 21 March 1986.

The deadline for tabling amendments to this report will be indicated in the draft agenda for the part-session at which it will be debated.

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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:

A

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

closing the procedure for consultation of the European Parliament on the proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council for a regulation opening for 1986, as an autonomous measure, a special import quota for high quality, fresh, chilled or frozen beef falling within subheadings 02.01 A II (a) and 02.01 A II (b) of the Common Customs Tariff

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the proposal from the Commission to the Council<sup>1</sup>,
- having regard to the Commission's amended proposal (COM(86) 85 final)<sup>2</sup>,
- having been consulted by the Council pursuant to Articles 43 and 113 of the EEC Treaty (Doc. C 2-168/85),
- having regard to the report of the Committee on External Economic Relations and the opinions of the Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries and Food and the Committee on Budgets (Doc. A 2-19/86),
- having regard to the result of the vote on the Commission's proposal,

1. Approves the Commission's proposal;
2. Instructs its President to forward to the Council and Commission, as Parliament's opinion, the Commission's proposal as voted by Parliament and the corresponding resolution.

<sup>1</sup>0J No. C 351, 31.12.1985, p.32

<sup>2</sup>0J No. C 51, 5.3.1986, p.5

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

The Commission considers that, in view of the market situation for beef both within and outside the Community, provision should be made for the opening for 1986, as an autonomous measure, of a special Community import tariff quota for 12 000 tonnes, at a duty of 20%, of high quality fresh, chilled or frozen beef falling within subheadings 02.01 A II (a) and 02.01 A II (b) of the Common Customs Tariff.

Equal, continuous access for all operators concerned in the Community to the said quota and the uninterrupted application of the rate laid down for that quota to all imports of the products concerned in all the Member States until the volume provided for is exhausted should be based on the presentation of a certificate of authenticity guaranteeing the type, provenance and origin of the products.

Provisions to this effect are contained in the procedure laid down in Article 27 of Regulation (EEC) No. 805/68.

The Committee on External Economic Relations approves the Commission's proposal.

OPINION OF THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FOOD

Letter from the chairman of the committee to Dame Shelagh ROBERTS, chairman of the Committee on External Economic Relations

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Subject : Proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council for a regulation opening for 1986, as an autonomous measure, a special import quota for high quality, fresh, chilled or frozen beef falling within subheadings 02.01 A II (a) and 02.01 A II (b) of the Common Customs Tariff (Doc. C-2/168/85 - COM(85) 841 final)

Dear Dame Shelagh,

At its meeting of 18 and 19 March 1986<sup>1</sup> the Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries and Food considered the above proposal for a Council regulation.

It must be emphasized that the European Parliament has been consulted solely on this proposal, and not on the two estimated balances published in the same document, the first concerning young male bovine animals intended for fattening and the second concerning beef and veal intended for the processing industry. These two estimates have actually already been adopted by the Council and were published in Official Journal No. L 27 of 1 February 1986.

The Agriculture Committee's opinion is therefore only concerned with the proposal for a special quota of 12 000 t of high quality beef. This quota is in addition to the 29 800 t already set by the Council for 1986 in Regulation No. 3583/85 of 17 December 1985 (OJ No. L 343, 20.12.1985, p. 8), in the context of agreements under GATT.

The Commission's aim is to phase out the quantity of meat intended for the processing industry which is imported on preferential terms (50 000 t in 1985) and replace it with a quantity of high quality meat. Instead of last year's 50 000 t of meat intended for the processing industry, only 25 000 t will be imported (as indicated in the conclusions of the above estimate), to which is to be added, this year, 12 000 t of high quality meat. This proposal has already caused objections in the Council of Ministers, with a move either to halve the quantity to 6 000 t, or to reject the opening of the quota outright. To take account of this disagreement in the Council, the Commission amended its proposal on 18 February 1986 (see COM(86) 85 final), reducing the quota from 12 000 t to 6 000 t.

As is the case every year, the Community is caught between three conflicting interests: the traditional flow of imports from third countries, particularly Latin America, for which meat exports to the Community are of vital importance, the needs of the processing industry and, finally, the beef surplus situation in the Community, with stocks totalling some 730 000 t. These conflicting pressures can only produce a compromise which is more or less acceptable to all parties concerned. What is puzzling, however, is that imports of meat for the processing industry on preferential terms (two-thirds exempt from the levy and one-third subject to a reduced levy of 45%) are being replaced by imports of high quality meat, i.e. meat not intended for industry, but for direct consumption, and exempt from the levy. If approved by the

Council the opening of this quota, even if reduced to 6 000 t, will only aggravate the situation of the Community meat market without meeting the specific needs of the processing industry.

Accordingly, the Agriculture Committee does not approve this proposal.

Yours sincerely,

(sgd) Teun TOLMAN

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<sup>1</sup>The following were present : Mr Tolman (chairman); Mr Eyraud and Mr Graefe zu Baringdorf (vice-chairmen); Mr Bocklet, Mrs Castle, Mr Clinton, Mr Dalsass, Mr Früh, Mr MacSharry, Mr Maher, Mr Mühlen (deputizing for Mr Mertens), Mr Nielsen, Mr Pranchère, Mr Provan, Mr Sierra Bardaji, Mr Späth (deputizing for Mr Borgo) and Mr Vernimmen.