

# European Communities

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## EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

# Working Documents

1984-1985

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7 May 1984

DOCUMENT 1-217/84

### REPORT

drawn up on behalf of the Committee on Development and Cooperation

on the proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council (Doc. 1-171/84 - COM(83) 719 final) for a Regulation amending Regulation (EEC) No. 435/80 to include strawberries falling within Common Customs Tariff subheading 08.08 A II and originating in the African, Caribbean and Pacific States or in the overseas countries and territories

Rapporteur: Mr John de COURCY LING

PE 90.192/fin.



By letter of 9 April 1984 the Council requested the European Parliament to deliver an opinion on the proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council for a Regulation amending Regulation (EEC) No. 435/80 to include strawberries falling within Common Customs Tariff sub-heading 08.08 A II and originating in the African, Caribbean and Pacific States or in the overseas countries and territories

On 12 April 1984 the President of the European Parliament referred this proposal to the Committee on Development and Cooperation as the committee responsible and to the Committee on Agriculture, the Committee on Budgets and the Committee on External Economic Relations for opinions.

At its meeting of 26 April 1984 the Committee on Development and Cooperation appointed Mr de Courcy Ling rapporteur.

The committee considered the Commission's proposal and the draft report at its meeting of 26 April 1984 when it adopted the motion for a resolution with one abstention.

The following took part in the vote under the chairmanship of Mr Poniatowski: Mr Bersani, vice-chairman; Mr Denis, vice-chairman; Mr de Courcy Ling, rapporteur; Mr Cohen, Mr Enright, Mr De Gucht (deputising for Mr Sablé); Mr Irmer, Mr C. Jackson, Mr Pearce, Mr Simpson, Mr Wawrzik.

The opinion of the Committee on Budgets will be published separately.

The Committee on Agriculture and the Committee on External Economic Relations have not presented opinions.

The report was tabled on 2 May 1984.

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

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The Committee on Development and Cooperation hereby submits to the European Parliament the following amendments to the Commission proposal and motion for a resolution together with explanatory statement:

Text proposed by the  
European Parliament

Commission text

Proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC)  
amending Regulation (EEC) No 435/80 to include strawberries  
falling within Common Customs Tariff subheading 08.08 A II and  
originating in the African, Caribbean and Pacific States  
or in the overseas countries and territories

Preambles 1 and 2 unchanged

Amendment No. 1

Amend the 3rd preamble to  
read:

Whereas Council Regulation (EEC) No 435/80 of 18 February 1980 on the arrangements applicable to agricultural products and certain goods resulting from the processing of agricultural products originating in the African, Caribbean and Pacific States or in the overseas countries and territories, (1) as last amended by Regulation (EEC) No 3019/81, (2) provides for total or partial exemption from customs duty for the products in question; whereas given the importance of strawberries to the economies of these States, countries and territories, these products should be granted total exemption from customs duties during a specified period of the year;

Whereas Council Regulation (EEC) No 435/80 of 18 February 1980 on the arrangements applicable to agricultural products and certain goods resulting from the processing of agricultural products originating in the African, Caribbean and Pacific States or in the overseas countries and territories, (1) as last amended by Regulation (EEC) No 3019/81, (2) provides for total or partial exemption from customs duty for the products in question; whereas given the importance of strawberries to the economies of these States, countries and territories, these products should be granted partial exemption from customs duties during a specified period of the year;

Amendment No. 2

Amend the 4th preamble to read:

Whereas strawberries falling within Common Customs Tariff subheading 08.08 A II should be exempt from customs duties for the period from 1 October to the end of February; whereas Regulation (EEC) No 435/80 should be amended to this effect,

Whereas the customs duty on strawberries falling within Common Customs Tariff subheading 08.08 A II should be reduced by 60% within the limit of a Community tariff quota of 750 tonnes for the period from 1 October to the end of February; whereas Regulation (EEC) No 435/80 should be amended to this effect,

(1) OJ No L 55, 28.2.1980, S. 4

(2) OJ No L 302, 23.10.1981, S. 4

Amendment No. 3

Article 1

Amend Article 1  
to read:

The following Article  
14a is hereby added to  
Title VII of Regulation  
(EEC) No 435/80:

The following Article 14a is hereby  
added to Title VII of Regulation (EEC)  
No 435/80:

Article 14a

"Article 14a

1. The following product  
shall be imported free  
of customs duties

1. Customs duty on the following product  
shall be reduced by 60%, within the  
limit of a Community tariff quota  
of 750 tonnes:

CCT heading No	Description
08.08	Berries, fresh: A. Strawberries ex II, from 1 August to 30 April: - from 1 October to end of February

CCT heading No	Description
08.08	Berries, fresh: A. Strawberries ex II, from 1 August to 30 April: - from 1 October to end of February

2. Where paragraph 1 does not apply  
for the entire period in question  
the quota opened shall be reduced  
pro rata temporis".

Article 2

unchanged

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 Council Regulation (EEC) amending regulation (EEC) No. 435/80 to include strawberries falling within Common Customs Tariff subheading 08.08 A II and originating in the African, Caribbean and Pacific States or in the overseas countries and territories

The European Parliament,

- A. having regard to the proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council (COM(83) 719 final),
- B. having been consulted by the Council (Doc. 1-171/84),
- C. having regard to the report of the Committee on Development and Cooperation and the opinion of the Committee on Budgets (Doc. 1-217/84),
- D. having regard to the vote on the Commission's proposal,
  1. Stresses the importance of encouraging ACP exports to the Community;
  2. Notes that strawberries are not normally grown in the European Community during the months of October to February;
  3. Insists that strawberries originating in the ACP States or in the overseas countries and territories falling within Common Customs Tariff subheading 08.08 A II be imported free of customs duties, without quantitative restrictions, during the period from 1 October to the end of February;
  4. 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.

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

1. During the months of October to February inclusive strawberries are not normally grown in the Community, though some Community produced strawberries that have been preserved (by freezing, etc.) are commercialised during this period. Thus fresh strawberries sold in the Community during these months are imported from third countries including Israel, Spain, USA and certain ACP countries such as Kenya, Zimbabwe, Ivory Coast, Sudan, Senegal, Madagascar and Zambia.
2. At present strawberries originating in the ACP States and the overseas countries and territories are subject to customs duty when entering the Community. The Commission's proposal would be to grant a 60% reduction in the CCT customs duty for a maximum quota of 750 tonnes of ACP and OCT strawberries during the period from 1 October to the end of February. Any exports in excess of 750 tonnes would be subject to normal customs duties.
3. Given the Community's commitment to assist the development of ACP exports, your rapporteur feels strongly that ACP strawberries should be granted total exemption from customs duties, without quantitative restrictions, during the period in question when they do not compete with Community fresh strawberry production.
4. The resolution contained in this report proposes amendments to this effect.