

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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DOCUMENT 1-119/84

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. 1-1453/83 -
COM(84) 26 final) for a regulation laying down
implementing rules for Regulation (EEC) No. 3331/82
on food aid policy and food aid management

Rapporteur: Mr P. LEZZI

PE 89.741/fin.
Or. It.

By letter of 13 February 1984, the President of the Council of the European Communities requested the European Parliament to deliver an opinion, pursuant to the Treaty establishing the European Communities, on the proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council for a regulation laying down implementing rules for Regulation (EEC) No. 3331/82 on food aid policy and food aid management.

On 15 February 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 and the Committee on Budgets for their opinions.

At its meeting of 22 March 1984 the Committee on Development and Cooperation appointed Mr LEZZI rapporteur.

The committee considered the Commission's proposal and the draft report at its meeting of 29 March 1984 and unanimously decided to recommend to Parliament that it approve the Commission's proposal with the following amendments.

The following took part in the vote: Mr Poniatowski, chairman; Mr Denis and Mrs Focke, vice-chairmen; Mr Enright, acting rapporteur; Mr Cohen, Mr de Courcy Ling, Mr De Gucht (deputizing for Mr Sablé), Mr Irmer, Mr C. Jackson, Mr Pearce and Mr Vergès.

Mr Enright, deputizing for the rapporteur, introduced the report.

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

The report was tabled on 29 March 1984.

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 Development and Cooperation hereby submits to the European Parliament the following amendments to the Commission proposal and motion for a resolution :

Amendments tabled by the European Parliament

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment No. 1

Title of the proposal for a regulation

Proposal for a Council regulation (EEC) laying down implementing rules for Regulation (EEC) No. 2750/75 on food aid policy and food aid management.

Proposal for a Council regulation (EEC) laying down implementing rules for Regulation (EEC) No. 3331/82 on food aid policy and food aid management.

Amendment No. 2

Preamble, second recital

Having regard to Council Regulation (EEC) No. 2750/75 (1)

Having regard to Council Regulation (EEC) No. 3331/82 of 3 December 1982 on food aid policy and food aid management and amending Regulation (EEC) No. 2750/75 (1), and in particular to the first, fourth, fifth, sixth and seventh indents of Article 4(1) and to Article 4(2) thereof.

(1) OJ No. L 281, 1.11.1975, p. 89

(1) OJ No. L 352, 14.12.1982, p. 1

Amendment No. 3

Preamble, fifth recital

Whereas, in order to implement Council Regulation (EEC) No. 2750/75, it is necessary to determine the total quantities of each product to be supplied under the food aid programmes in compliance with the Community's international commitments.

Whereas, in order to implement Council Regulation (EEC) No. 3331/82, it is necessary to determine the total quantities of each product to be supplied under the food aid programmes in compliance with the Community's international commitments.

Amendment No. 4

Article 1(1), second subparagraph

The products listed in the fourth, fifth and sixth indents of Annex 1 shall be made available to certain developing countries or certain organizations in the form of specific projects or emergency aid to be decided on by the Commission in accordance with Regulation (EEC) No. 2750/75.

The products listed in the fourth, fifth and sixth indents of Annex 1 shall be made available to certain developing countries or certain organizations in the form of specific projects or emergency aid to be decided on by the Commission in accordance with Article 5 or 6, as applicable, of Regulation (EEC) No. 3331/82.

Amendment No. 5

Article 2(2)(d)

have given an undertaking to comply with the conditions of supply laid down by the Commission pursuant to Regulation (EEC) No. 2750/75.

have given an undertaking to comply with the conditions of supply laid down by the Commission pursuant to Article 6 of Regulation (EEC) No. 3331/82.

Amendment No. 6

Article 5(1)

The Commission shall inform the recipients of the conditions governing the supply of food aid as referred to in Regulation (EEC) No. 2750/75.

The Commission shall inform the recipients of the conditions governing the supply of food aid as referred to in point (c) of the first paragraph of Article 6 of Regulation (EEC) No. 3331/82.

Amendment No. 7

Article 7(3)

The Commission shall lay down the rules referred to in paragraph 1 in accordance with the procedure provided for in Regulation (EEC) No. 2750/75.

The Commission shall lay down the rules referred to in paragraph 1 in accordance with the procedure provided for in Article 8 of Regulation (EEC) No. 3331/82.

Amendment No. 8

Article 8

The Commission shall, in accordance with the procedure provided for in Regulation (EEC) No. 2750/75, establish the technical coefficient and equivalence criterion referred to in that regulation.

The Commission shall, in accordance with the procedure provided for in Article 8 of Regulation (EEC) No. 3331/82, establish the technical coefficient and equivalence criterion referred to in Article 3 of that regulation.

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 laying down implementing rules for Regulation (EEC) No. 2750/75 on food aid policy and food aid management

The European Parliament,

- A. having regard to the proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council (COM(84) 26 final),
 - B. having been consulted by the Council (Doc. 1-1453/83),
 - C. having regard to the report of the Committee on Development and Cooperation and the opinions of the Committee on Agriculture and the Committee on Budgets (Doc. 1-119/84),
 - D. having regard to the result of the vote on the Commission's proposal,
 - E. having regard to the conciliation procedure on the proposal for a Council regulation concerning food aid policy and food aid management,
1. Notes that the total quantities of food aid proposed correspond to the budget resources available for 1984;
 2. Welcomes the fact that as of this year multiannual operations may be implemented, as advocated on several occasions by the European Parliament;
 3. Regrets that reference is made to Council Regulation (EEC) No.3331/82 of 3 December 1983, which is prejudicial to the powers of the European Parliament, and again insists that this reference should be deleted;
 4. Approves the Commission's proposal subject to the deletion of the references to Council Regulation No. 3331/82;
 5. Reiterates its view that it would be intolerable for food aid measures to be delayed because of the Commission's reference to Council Regulation No. 3331/82 but at the same time stresses yet again that its approval of the Commission's proposal in no way implies acceptance of Regulation No. 3331/82 and renews its appeal to the Commission to draw up a proposal for a new basic regulation on food aid as quickly as possible;
 6. 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

The Commission is submitting to the European Parliament a proposal for a regulation laying down implementing rules for food aid policy and food aid management in 1984.

The Community uses food aid for humanitarian ends and it is one of the key elements of Community cooperation policy with the developing countries. The main focus of Community policy in this sector is the desire to ensure that food aid becomes a genuine instrument of cooperation policy and that the Community is able to guarantee a regular overall flow of aid, undertaking, where necessary, to provide minimum quantities of products as part of multi-annual programmes, either to developing countries or international organizations.

Seen in this light, food aid must be an important factor in achieving a food strategy. It must contribute directly or indirectly to assisting food products which are in deficit in the developing countries and give all possible support to a food strategy aimed at reducing the problem of hunger as far as is possible, as part of a wide-ranging programme designed also to tackle the problems connected with the population increases which are typical of almost all developing countries.

In recapitulating the main aims of food aid, it should be said that it is intended to improve the level of nutrition of the recipient populations, provide assistance in emergencies and contribute to the balanced economic and social development of these populations.

In the interests of maintaining a degree of stability, the Commission has proposed an implementing regulation similar to that adopted by the Council for 1983.

With regard to the total quantities of food aid, it is proposed that, as in 1983, these should reflect the budget resources available for the year in question.

However, the proposed implementing regulation for 1984 differs from its predecessor on a number of points :

- in the recitals mention is made of the UNRWA Convention, under which the aid in question is allocated following the same procedures as other food aid actions;
- provision is made for the possibility of proposing multiannual operations in accordance with certain guidelines.

Furthermore, in terms of presentation, the implementing regulation for 1984 differs from the 1983 version in that the total quantities of food aid which the Commission intends to allocate to certain developing countries are set out in Annex I rather than in Article 1. As is explained in the memorandum accompanying the proposal for a regulation, this will make it possible to include in the articles of the regulation a set of provisions which remain more or less constant and can be carried over from year to year. The points most liable to annual change (quantities, list of recipients, list of products) appear in the annexes.

It should be remembered that when it considered the proposal for a regulation on the organization of food aid for 1983, the European Parliament decided not to deliver an opinion. This decision was based on the argument that the European Parliament could not approve an implementing regulation based on a framework regulation which was itself questionable and whose validity had been called into question.

The European Parliament subsequently decided to adopt a different approach whenever it was required to give an opinion on regulations implementing the framework regulation. It decided that in future it would no longer refuse to deliver an opinion but would insist on the deletion from these proposals for regulations of all references to the framework Regulation (EEC) No. 3331/82, replacing these with a reference to Regulation (EEC) No. 2750/75.

It was therefore decided to follow this approach in the present report. In conclusion, the Committee on Development and Cooperation approves the proposal for a regulation as a whole, but regrets the fact that reference is made to the 1982 regulation which is prejudicial to the powers of the European Parliament, particularly as regard the decision-making process governing the allocation of food aid.

The Committee therefore stresses the need for the Commission to draw up a new proposal for a basic regulation on food aid as quickly as possible.

OPINION OF THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

Letter from Mr CURRY, Chairman of the Committee on Agriculture, to
Mr PONIATOWSKI, Chairman of the Committee on Development and Cooperation

Dear Mr Poniatowski,

At its meeting of 21 March 1984¹, the Committee on Agriculture considered the Commission's proposal for a Council regulation (EEC) laying down implementing rules for Regulation (EEC) No. 3331/82 on food aid policy and food aid management (COM(84) 26 final).

Regulation (EEC) No. 3331/82 on food aid policy and food aid management² set out the general principles for food aid; Council Regulation (EEC) No. 1992/83³ laying down the implementing rules for 1983 for Regulation (EEC) No. 3331/82 concerning food aid policy and food aid management established new procedures for the Commission to take decisions.

¹ Present: Mr Curry, chairman; Mr Früh and Mr Colleselli, vice-chairmen; Mr Barbagli (deputizing for Mr Diana), Mr Battersby, Mr Dalsass, Mr Eyraud, Mr Gatto, Mr Gautier, Mr Helms, Mrs Herklotz, Mr Hord, Mr Jürgens, Mr Ligios, Mr McCartin (deputizing for Mr Clinton), Mr Maffre-Bauge, Mr Maher, Mr Mertens, Mr Provan, Mr Thareau, Mr Vgenopoulos and Mr Vitale

² OJ No. L 352, 14.12.1982, p. 1

³ OJ No. L 196, 20. 7.1983, p. 1

The Commission is now proposing an implementing regulation for 1984 which is in essence similar to that adopted by the Council for 1983. Under Article 10 of the proposed regulation, the European Parliament would be kept informed of the management of food aid by notification of the Commission's decisions.

The total quantities of food aid which the Community will be allocating among certain developing countries are now set out in Annex 1 rather than in the Regulation itself, as was the case in the past. The factors in the Regulation liable to annual change (quantities, lists of recipients and products) will therefore be set out in annexes which can more easily be amended.

The Commission is proposing that the following quantities of food aid be made available for 1984:

cereals: (a) an initial instalment of 927,663 tonnes,
(b) a second instalment of up to 200,000 tonnes;
skimmed-milk powder: a maximum of 122,500 tonnes;
butteroil: a maximum of 32,760 tonnes;
sugar: a maximum of 13,500 tonnes;
vegetable oil/olive oil: a maximum of 20,000 tonnes;
other products (fish, dried vegetables, vegetable flour, etc.): the equivalent of a maximum of 147,000 tonnes of cereals.

The Committee on Agriculture supports the food aid policy proposed by the Commission and therefore endorses the proposal for a regulation.

Yours sincerely,

David M. CURRY
Chairman