

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

1979 - 1980

7 December 1979

DOCUMENT 1-568/79

Report

drawn up on behalf of the Committee on External Economic Relations

on the proposals from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council (Doc. 1-363/79) for

- I. a regulation opening, allocating and providing for the administration of a Community tariff quota for wines of fresh grapes falling within subheading ex 22.05 C of the Common Customs Tariff and originating in Cyprus (1980)**
- II. a regulation opening, allocating and providing for the administration of a Community tariff quota for liqueur wines falling within subheading ex 22.05 C of the Common Customs Tariff and originating in Cyprus (1980)**

Rapporteur: Mr Giorgio ALMIRANTE

By letter of 25 September 1979, 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 the proposals from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council for a regulation opening, allocating and providing for the administration of a Community tariff quota for wines of fresh grapes falling within subheading ex 22.05 C of the Common Customs Tariff, and originating in Cyprus (1980) and a regulation opening, allocating and providing for the administration of a Community tariff quota for liqueur wines falling within subheading ex 22.05 C of the Common Customs Tariff and originating in Cyprus (1980).

On 10 October 1979 the President of the European Parliament referred these proposals to the Committee on External Economic Relations as the committee responsible and to the Committee on Agriculture for its opinion.

On 22 November 1979 the Committee on External Economic Relations appointed Mr Almirante rapporteur.

It considered these proposals at its meeting of 29 November 1979 and, at the same meeting, unanimously adopted the motion for a resolution and the explanatory statement.

Present: Sir Fred Catherwood, chairman; Mrs Wieczorek-Zeul and Mr van Aerssen, vice-chairmen; Mr Almirante, rapporteur; Mrs Agnelli, Mr de Courcy Ling, Mr Jonker, Mr Kellett-Bowman, Mr Louwes, Mr Majonica, Mr Martinet, Mr Prout (deputizing for Sir John Stewart-Clark), Mrs Rabbethge (deputizing for Mr Lemmer), Mr Schmitt, Mr Seeler and Mr Welsh.

The opinion of the Committee on Agriculture is attached.

C O N T E N T S

	<u>Page</u>
A - MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION	5
B - EXPLANATORY STATEMENT	6
ANNEX	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 proposals from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council for
- a regulation opening, allocating and providing for the administration of a Community tariff quota for wines of fresh grapes falling within subheading ex 22.05 C of the Common Customs Tariff, and originating in Cyprus (1980)

 - a regulation opening, allocating and providing for the administration of a Community tariff quota for liqueur wines falling within subheading ex 22.05 C of the Common Customs Tariff and originating in Cyprus (1980)

The European Parliament

- having regard to the proposal from the Commission of the European Communities,¹
 - having been consulted by the Council pursuant to Article 43 of the EEC Treaty (Doc. 1-363/79),
 - having regard to the report of the Committee on External Economic Relations and the opinion of the Committee on Agriculture (Doc.1-568/79),
- Approves the Commission's proposals.

¹OJ No. C 255, 9.10.1979, p.6 & 9

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

1. Articles 5 and 6 of the supplementary Protocol¹ annexed to the EEC-Cyprus Agreement of 1973, provide for the opening of annual Community tariff quotas for these wines originating in Cyprus.

These wines remain subject to the provisions governing the common organization of the market in wine products, especially as regards observance of the reference price.

2. Consequently the Community tariff quotas shown above should be opened from the period from 1 January to 31 December 1980. Parliament must be consulted on this pursuant to Article 43 of the EEC Treaty.

In previous years, Parliament has approved the opening of these tariff quotas without amendment². This is in implementation of an agreement concluded with Cyprus and ratified.

3. Point 3 of Commission's explanatory memorandum should also be noted:

'The approval of these Regulations depends however on the entry into force of a Transitional Protocol on 1 January 1980 (to be annexed to the EEC/Cyprus Association Agreement). This protocol ought to be negotiated before the end of this year in order to extend the first stage of the above-mentioned agreement once more.

Pending the outcome of the negotiations, it is already necessary for technical reasons to submit proposals allowing the Community and Cyprus to maintain commercial relations. In order not to disturb the commercial flow of the goods in question, the tariff quotas should be opened on 1 January 1980. In this case the first 'whereas'- clause of each regulation ought to be adapted consequently'.

4. As customary this quota is divided into two parts, of which the first is allocated among the Member States, and the second forms the Community reserve.

5. The Committee on External Economic Relations has no particular observations to make and proposes that the draft regulations should be approved without amendment.

¹ See Annex

² Most recently on the basis of the Spicer report (Doc. 438/78)

ANNEX

Article 5 and 6 of the supplementary Protocol, annexed to the EEC/Cyprus Agreement of 1973.¹

Article 5

Customs duties on imports into the Community of the products listed below, originating in Cyprus, shall be reduced by 75% within the limits of an annual Community tariff quota of 10,000 hectolitres, provided that the import prices of the wines in question plus the customs duties actually levied are not less at any given time than the Community reference prices for such wines:

Wine of fresh grapes, etc.

Article 6

Customs duties on imports into the Community of the products listed below, originating in Cyprus, shall be reduced by 70% within the limits of an annual Community tariff quota of 250,000 hectolitres, provided that the import prices of the wines in question plus the customs duties actually levied are not less at any given time than the Community reference price for such wines.

Wine of fresh grapes, etc.

- liqueur wine.

¹ OJ No. L172 of 28.6.1978

OPINION OF THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

Letter from the committee chairman to Sir Fred CATHERWOOD, chairman of the
Committee on External Economic Relations

Brussels, 31 October 1979

Dear Mr Chairman,

At its meeting of 29/30 October 1979, the Committee on Agriculture¹ considered the proposals for regulations from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council concerning the opening, allocation and administration of Community tariff quotas for wine from fresh grapes and liqueur wines originating in Cyprus (Doc. 1-363/79).

These quotas have to be opened annually pursuant to Article 5 of the supplementary Protocol to the Agreement establishing an association between the EEC and the Republic of Cyprus. The tariff quota for wine from fresh grapes for 1980 concerns a quantity of 10,000 hl, while the tariff quota for fortified wines for 1980 provides for the preferential treatment of 250,000 hl.

As usual, the quotas have been divided into two parts, of which the first will be distributed among the Member States and the second will constitute a reserve on which the Member States may draw once their initial quota has been exhausted.

In the distribution of the quota among the Member States, the greatest possible consideration has been given to the marketability of the said wines in the different Member States. It should be borne in mind that approval of the proposal for a regulation will depend on the entry into force on 1 January 1980 of a transitional protocol, the negotiation of which should be completed as swiftly as possible.

In order to ensure that the existing trade relations with Cyprus and the flow of trade in the products concerned continue untrammelled pending the outcome of the negotiations, the quotas will have to be opened on 1 January 1980.

In view of the fact that the present proposals are based on the supplementary Protocol to the association agreement with Cyprus and therefore represent simply an extension of the existing association relationship, the Committee on Agriculture recommends that you approve the proposals.

Yours sincerely,

(sgd) Sir Henry PLUMB

¹Present: Sir Henry Plumb, chairman; Mr Bocklet, Mr Davern, Mr De Keersmaeker (deputizing for Mr Früh), Mr Delatte, Mr Diana, Mr Gatto, Mr Helms, Mr Lynge, Mr Maher, Mr Newton-Dunn (deputizing for Mr Provan), Mr Nielsen, Mr Papapietro, Mr Tolman, Mr Vernimmen and Mr Woltjer.