

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

1975-1976

14 May 1975

DOCUMENT 98/75

SECOND 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. 503/74) for /

- I. a regulation on the opening, allocation and administration of the Community tariff quota of 30,000 head of heifers and cows, not intended for slaughter, of certain mountain breeds falling within sub-heading ex 01.02 A II (b) 2 of the Common Customs Tariff

- II. a regulation on the opening, allocation and administration of the Community tariff quota of 5,000 head of bulls, cows and heifers, not intended for slaughter, of certain alpine breeds falling within sub-heading ex 01.02 A II (b) 2 of the Common Customs Tariff

Rapporteur: Mr J. BAAS

PE 40.797/fin.

By letter of 14 February 1975 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 proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council for two regulations on the opening, allocation and administration of the Community tariff quota of 30,000 head of heifers and cows and 5,000 head of bulls, not intended for slaughter, of certain breeds falling within sub-heading ex 01.02 A II (b) 2 of the Common Customs Tariff.

At its plenary sitting on 18 February 1975, the European Parliament referred this proposal to the Committee on External Economic Relations as the committee responsible and to the Committee on Agriculture for its opinion.

On 25 February 1975, the Committee on External Economic Relations appointed Mr BAAS rapporteur.

It considered this proposal at its meeting of 18 March 1975.

At the same meeting the committee unanimously adopted the motion for a resolution and the explanatory statement.

At its sitting of 30 April 1975, the European Parliament referred the report (Doc. 6/75) back to the Committee on External Economic Relations. At its meeting of 12 May 1975, the committee decided to retain the original text with no amendments and requested that the report be included in the agenda for the May 1975 part-session, under the procedure of consideration without debate.

Present: Mr Kaspereit, chairman; Mr Thomsen, Vice-chairman; Mr Guertsen (deputizing for Mr Baas), Mr Klepsch, Mr Nyborg, Lord St. Oswald, Mr Patijn, Mr Spicer and Mr Vandewiele.

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	7
Opinion of the Committee on Agriculture	9

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

- I. a regulation on the opening, allocation and administration of the Community tariff quota of 30,000 head of heifers and cows, not intended for slaughter, of certain mountain breeds falling within sub-heading ex.01.02A II(b)2 of the Common Customs Tariff
- II. a regulation on the opening, allocation and administration of the Community tariff quota of 5,000 head of bulls, cows and heifers, not intended for slaughter, of certain alpine breeds falling within sub-heading ex 01.02A II(b)2 of the Common Customs Tariff

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the proposals from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council¹;
 - having been consulted by the Council pursuant to Article 43 of the EEC Treaty (Doc. 503/74);
 - having regard to the second report of the Committee on External Economic Relations and the opinion of the Committee on Agriculture (Doc. 98/75);
1. Approves the general content of the proposals from the Commission of the European Communities;
 2. Welcomes the fact that the minimum period after which, starting from the day of importation, animals imported into Member States of the European Communities are considered as not intended for slaughter within the meaning of this regulation, has been extended from 2 to 4 months;

¹ OJ C 42, 22 February 1975, pp. 2 and 5.

3. Regrets that the allocation of the Community tariff quotas is still made by direct distribution among the Member States; insists, moreover, on the need to harmonize veterinary standards, so that they can be brought into the Community ambit;
4. Insists that, at the time of importation, importers should be required to make a declaration to the responsible authorities that the cattle imported under the Community tariff quota provided for in Article 1(1) are not intended for slaughter;
5. Insists that, where, in cases of force majeure (disease, accident) duly attested by a local authority, derogations from the prohibition on slaughter of animals imported under Article 1(1) of the proposal for a regulation under consideration are granted, the animals slaughtered should count against the allocation of the individual Member States.

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

1. In the multilateral GATT negotiations, the European Economic Community undertook to open certain annual Community quotas including, in the agricultural sector, those dealt with in the two proposals for regulations under consideration.

In response to requests from the Swiss and Austrian authorities, the tariff quotas in question have been opened since 1 July 1970 and cover the period from 1 July in each year to 30 June in the following year. These quotas were last opened for the period from 1 July 1974 to 30 June 1975¹.

2. The object of these proposals for regulations is to open the Community tariff quotas for the period from 1 July 1975 to 30 June 1976.

3. The purpose of the two proposals for regulations is as follows:

- I. to open to third countries, particularly those in alpine regions, a Community tariff quota increased from 20,000 to 30,000 head of heifers and cows (productive and breeding cattle) at a quota duty reduced from 6% to 4%;
- II. to renew a Community tariff quota of 5,000 head of bulls, cows and heifers (productive and breeding cattle) at an unchanged quota duty of 4%.

4. The proposals for regulation provide for the opening, allocation and administration of the Community tariff quotas.

5. Our committee has already given an opinion on this matter².

On that occasion, Parliament insisted on the earliest possible removal of obstacles arising from insufficient harmonization of customs and veterinary regulations, which prevent full Community allocation and administration of open quotas.

¹Regulation EEC No. 1874/74 and 1875/74 of 15 July 1974 (OJ No. L 194 of 17 July 1974).

²Report by Mr J. Baas Doc. 146/74 of 26 June 1974

6. The earlier report also expressed concern that animals imported into EEC Member States under the proposal for a regulation under consideration could in some way be intended for slaughter rather than used in the manner envisaged by the Commission's regulation. It was therefore suggested that importers should be obliged to declare that the head of cattle imported under the rules of the regulation under consideration were not intended for slaughter.

It was also asked that, in cases of force majeure (disease, accidents) duly attested by the competent local veterinary authority, derogations from the prohibition on slaughter should be granted, any animals slaughtered continuing to count against the allocation to individual Member States made at the time of importation.

7. The committee welcomes the fact that, for the purposes of applying this regulation, animals not slaughtered within four months of the date of their importation are to be considered as not destined for slaughter, since it considers the period of two months stipulated in the regulation for 1974 insufficient.

8. However, as already suggested, it considers that the importer should be obliged to make a declaration at the date of importation that the cows and heifers imported under the regulation under consideration are not intended for slaughter.

9. It insists that cows and heifers imported under the tariff concessions provided by the proposal for the regulation under consideration and subsequently slaughtered in cases of force majeure (disease, accident) attested by the local veterinary authority, should be counted against the allocation to individual Member States.

OPINION OF THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

Draftsman: Mr M. BREGEGERE

On 14 February 1975 the Committee on Agriculture appointed Mr M. BREGEGERE draftsman.

It considered the draft opinion at its meeting of 27 February and adopted it unanimously.

Present: Mr Vetrone, acting chairman; Mr Laban, vice-chairman; Mr Brégégère, draftsman; Mr Frehsee, Mr Früh, Mr Howell, Mr Lemoine, Mr Liogier, Mr Ney, Mrs Orth, Mr Scott-Hopkins and Mr Zeller.

1. The Committee on Agriculture has been asked to give an opinion for the Committee on External Economic Relations, the committee responsible, on two proposals for regulations laying down for the period from 1 July 1975 to 30 June 1976 provisions on the opening, allocation and administration of two quotas of bovine animals of mountain or Alpine breeds not intended for slaughter. These quotas, initially opened in accordance with undertakings entered into by certain Member States within GATT, have already been fixed and opened by the Community in past years.

2. The Committee on Agriculture was thus able to give a favourable opinion on similar proposals last year¹. Your committee therefore does not intend to return to the overall mechanism of the opening of this quota. It would simply recall that it is in response to requests from the Swiss and Austrian authorities that the tariff quotas in question have been opened regularly since 1 July 1970 to cover the period from 1 July of each year to 30 June of the following year. The quotas were last opened for the period from 1 July 1974 to 30 June 1975.

3. The purpose of the two proposals for regulations now before us is therefore to open quotas for the period from 1 July 1975 to 30 June 1976. As in past years, the Committee on Agriculture feels able to give a favourable opinion on these two proposals. It does, however, wish to make the following observations.

4. It notes with satisfaction that the Council has taken into account an observation which it made last year concerning Article 1(2) of the first proposal for a regulation (see the opinion by Mr Cifarelli mentioned above). That article laid down that 'cows and heifers shall be considered not to be intended for slaughter if they are not slaughtered within two months following the date of their importation'.

The Committee on Agriculture wondered whether this provision did not allow cattle to be slaughtered after a two-month stay in the importing country. It also considered that there was some contradiction between this provision and the 'prudent measures' which the Commission had taken precisely because of the difficult situation of the Community beef and veal market. The committee was given satisfaction in that the period has been altered from two to four months (Article 1 of the first proposal for a regulation).

5. The committee finally wishes to state that, although it is desirable to encourage this kind of trade, Member States should be urged to remain on their guard to obviate any risk of disease among the cattle and to ensure that health regulations and rules on the treatment of the animals are observed.

¹ See opinion drawn up by Mr Cifarelli, which is attached to the report by Mr Baas (Doc. 146/74, 26 June 1974)