

European Communities

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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 (Doc. 167/74) for a regulation on the opening, allocation and administration of a Community tariff quota for fresh or dried hazelnuts, shelled or otherwise, falling within subheading ex 08.05 G of the Common Customs Tariff and originating in Turkey

Rapporteur: Mr Jan BAAS

PE 37.983/fin.

By letter of 25 June 1974 the President of the Council consulted the European Parliament, pursuant to Article 43 of the EEC Treaty, on the proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council for a regulation on the opening, allocation and administration of a Community tariff quota for fresh or dried hazelnuts, shelled or otherwise, falling within subheading ex 08.05 G of the Common Customs Tariff and originating in Turkey (Doc. 167/74).

On 28 June 1974 the President of the European Parliament referred this document to the Committee on External Economic Relations as the committee responsible and to the Committee on Agriculture for its opinion.

The Committee on External Economic Relations appointed Mr BAAS rapporteur at its meeting of 17 September 1974. At the same meeting it considered the text of the proposal for a regulation and unanimously adopted the motion for a resolution and the accompanying explanatory statement.

The following were present: Sir Douglas Dodds-Parker, oldest member and acting chairman; Mr Brewis, Mr Corterier, Mr de Clercq, Mr Klepsch, Mr E. Muller, Mr Radoux, Mr Sandri, Mr Thornley and Mr Vandewiele.

The opinion of the Committee on Agriculture is attached to this report.

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	8

A

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 proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council for a regulation on the opening, allocation and administration of a Community tariff quota for fresh or dried hazelnuts, shelled or otherwise, falling within subheading ex 08.05 G of the Common Customs Tariff and originating in Turkey

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council ¹;
 - having been consulted by the Council pursuant to Article 43 of the Treaty establishing the EEC (Doc. 167/74);
 - having regard to the report of the Committee on External Economic Relations and the opinion of the Committee on Agriculture (Doc. 263/74);
1. Approves the Commission's proposal;
 2. Instructs its President to forward this resolution and the report of its committee to the Council and Commission of the European Communities.

¹ OJ No. C 81, 13 July 1974, p.26



EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

1. The objective of the proposed regulation is to open a 1975 Community tariff quota for certain agricultural products originating in Turkey.
2. These arrangements are based on Article 1 of Regulation (EEC) No. 3375/73 of the Council of 10 December 1973 which stipulates that the Community must reduce by 37.5% the duty applied to imports of the products in question within the limit of a Community tariff quota of 21,700 metric tons. This reduction in the Common Customs Tariff duty results in a quota duty of 2.5% for the Community as originally constituted, whereas in the case of the new Member States, as stipulated in Article 2(1) and (3) of the Interim Agreement for the earlier introduction of certain provisions of the Supplementary Protocol on trade, the reduction to be applied within the tariff quota in question must be limited to the reduction granted by these States with reference to the Community as originally constituted.
3. In view of the need to ensure equal and continuous access to the quota for all Member State importers and consistent application of the tariff rate until the quota is exhausted, and in order to reflect the actual market trend as closely as possible, it has been decided that allocation of the quota between the various Member States should be in proportion to their requirements as calculated from statistics of imports from Turkey during a representative reference period and having regard to the business outlook for the quota period.
4. As regards administration of the quota, the Commission's proposal suggests an initial allocation among Member States of a substantial part of the quota; the balance would represent a reserve to which shares which exceeded requirements would be returned and from which the Member States could draw additional shares if and when needed.
5. The only method of administration to be applied by all Member States is to be the 'as and when' method.
6. It should be remembered that the Committee on External Economic Relations has already approved these arrangements¹, since it is a matter of renewing the same tariff arrangements for 1975, it is considered that the proposal can be accepted in its entirety.

¹ See DE IA MALENE report (Doc. 227/74)

OPINION OF THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

Draftsman : Mr J. BAAS

The Committee on Agriculture appointed Mr BAAS rapporteur for an opinion at its meeting of 2 and 3 July 1974.

It considered the draft opinion at its meeting of 5 and 6 September 1974 and adopted it unanimously.

The following were present: Mr Houdet, chairman, Mr Vetrone, vice-chairman, Mr Laban, vice-chairman, Mr Baas, draftsman of the opinion, Mr Brugger, Mr Concas, Mr Della Briotta, Mr Frehsee, Mr Früh, Mr Hansen, Mr Howell, Mr Lemoine, Mr Ligios, Mr Liogier, Mr Martens, Mrs Orth, Lord St. Oswald and Mr Scott-Hopkins.

This proposal for a regulation, on which the Committee on Agriculture was requested to submit an opinion to the Committee on External Economic Relations, makes provision for the opening of a Community tariff quota of 21,700 metric tons for the year 1975.

This proposal is in implementation of the Council Regulation of 10 December 1973 on the importation into the Community of certain agricultural products originating in Turkey. This provides for a reduction of 37.5% of the Common Customs Tariff for the Community tariff quota. As the normal CCT duty is 40% this reduction means, in the case of the original Member States, the introduction of a customs tariff of 2.5%.

Special provisions apply in the case of the new Member States to take account of the duties applied by these countries before accession to imports from third countries and also to allow for a necessary adjustment between the tariff reductions applied by the original Member States and those applied by the new ones.

As usual the relevant economic statistics for recent years (1971-1973) have been taken as a basis for the distribution of the quota among the Member States. Close cooperation between the Commission and the Member States in the administration of the quota is provided for to ensure that the quota is used as rationally as possible.

The Committee on Agriculture gave a favourable opinion to the Committee on External Economic Affairs on the basic regulation. The committee is of the opinion that a favourable opinion should also be given on the present proposal which once again represents an application of the basic regulation.

