

European Communities

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

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DOCUMENT 266/75

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. 157/75) for a regulation on the opening, allocation and administration of a Community tariff quota for certain eels falling within subheading ex 03.01 A II of the Common Customs Tariff for 1976

Rapporteur: Mr K. NYBORG

PE 41.377/fin.



By letter of 16 June 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 a regulation on the opening, allocation and administration of a Community tariff quota for certain eels falling within subheading No. ex 03.01 A II of the Common Customs Tariff for 1976 (Doc. 157/75).

By letter of 1 July 1975 the President of 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.

The Committee on External Economic Relations appointed Mr NYBORG rapporteur on 24 June 1975.

At its meeting of 17 September 1975 the committee considered the proposal and unanimously adopted the motion for a resolution and the explanatory statement.

The committee decided to present the report in plenary sitting without debate.

Present: Mr Kaspereit, chairman; Mr Scott-Hopkins, Mr Bermani and Mr Boano, vice-chairmen; Mr Nyborg, rapporteur; Mr Bayerl, Mr Bersani, Mr Brégègère, Lord Castle, Mr de Clercq, Mr Dunne, Mr Dykes, Mr Emile Muller, Mr Radoux, Mr Schulz, Mr Spicer, Mr Thornley, Mr Vetrone.

The opinion of the Committee on Agriculture is attached.

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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 certain eels falling within subheading No. ex 03.01 A 11 of the Common Customs Tariff for 1976

The European Parliament

- having regard to the proposal 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. 157/75),
- having regard to the report of the Committee on External Economic Relations and the opinion of the Committee on Agriculture (Doc. 266/75),

Approves the proposal for a regulation.

¹ O.J. No.C 142, 25 June 1975, p.2

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

1. As in previous years the production of eels in the Community remains insufficient, despite efforts to increase the volume produced. Worsening water pollution, in particular, has led to the closing of certain Community production centres. The considerable reduction in supplies from Community countries has made it increasingly necessary to assure supplies to the processing industries of the Member States by imports from third countries.
2. This situation led the Council, acting on a proposal from the Commission, to open beginning in 1971, a nil-duty Community tariff quota for certain types of fresh eels (live or dead), chilled or frozen, falling within subheading No. ex 03.01 A II of the Common Customs Tariff.
3. The opening of a quota of 5,500 metric tons (last year's proposal: 6,100 metric tons) for 1976 corresponds to the estimated shortfall in Community production to be made up by imports. Duty under the Common Customs Tariff is to be suspended totally in respect of this quota.

The quota will be divided into two tranches. The first of these (about 91 per cent of the tariff quota (last year's proposal: 85 per cent) will be allocated among the various Member States in proportion to the size of their import quota last year. The second tranche will constitute a reserve to cover subsequent requirements of those Member States which have used up their initial share. The regulation is to enter into force on 1 January 1976.
4. In article 5 of the Commission's proposal there is a minor modification compared with last year's proposal as to the ultimate date on which the unused portion of the initial shares of the Member States, which is in excess of 20 per cent of the initial amount, shall have to be returned to the reserve.
5. As was the case last year¹, the Committee on External Economic Relations does not consider that this proposal for a regulation raises any particular problems. It therefore approves the proposal without modifications.

¹ See THORNLEY Report (Doc.198/74)

OPINION OF THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

Letter from the chairman of the committee to Mr KASPEREIT
Chairman of the Committee on External Economic Relations

Brussels, 23 September 1975

Dear Mr Kaspereit,

At its meeting of 16 and 17 September 1975 the Committee on Agriculture considered 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 certain eels falling within subheading ex 03.01 A II of the Common Customs Tariff for 1976, on which it has been asked for its opinion, the Committee on External Economic Relations being the committee responsible.

During recent years, Community production has been insufficient to meet the current requirements of the processing industry, owing to the ban on eel fishing and pollution of eel fishing centres.

Despite efforts to increase production in other centres, there has been a reduction in Community production, as a result of which it has become necessary to import in order to make up for the lack of supplies for the processing industry, particularly in the Benelux countries and the Federal Republic of Germany.

This situation led the Council, acting on a proposal from the Commission, to open a zero-duty Community tariff quota for certain types of fresh eels (live or dead), chilled or frozen, falling within subheading ex 03.01 of the Common Customs Tariff.

Since there has been no subsequent improvement in the situation on the market, the Commission has felt it necessary to propose, on a yearly basis, the opening of further tariff quotas.

Like previous proposals, the proposal for a tariff quota for 1976 provides for the division of the tariff quota into two tranches:

- the first tranche, amounting to 5,000 metric tons, is to be shared among the Member States as follows:

Benelux	1,400	metric tons		
Denmark	1,000	"	"	
Germany	2,200	"	"	
France	100	"	"	
Ireland	10	"	"	
Italy	90	"	"	
United Kingdom	200	"	"	

- the second tranche, amounting to 500 metric tons, is to make up a reserve from which a Member State, if it has exhausted 90% or more of its initial share, may proceed to draw 3 additional shares equal to 15%, 7.5% and 7.5% respectively, of its initial share.

The Committee on Agriculture unanimously¹ approves the Commission's proposal, as it did last year when the situation as regards eel supplies for the processing industry was practically the same as today.

Yours sincerely,

R. HOUDET

¹
Present:

Mr Houdet, chairman; Mr Vetrone and Mr Laban, vice-chairmen; Mr Bourdellès, Mr Frehsee, Mr Früh, Mr Kofoed, Mr De Koning, Mr Liogios, Mr Ney, Mr McDonald, Lord Walston and Mr Zeller.