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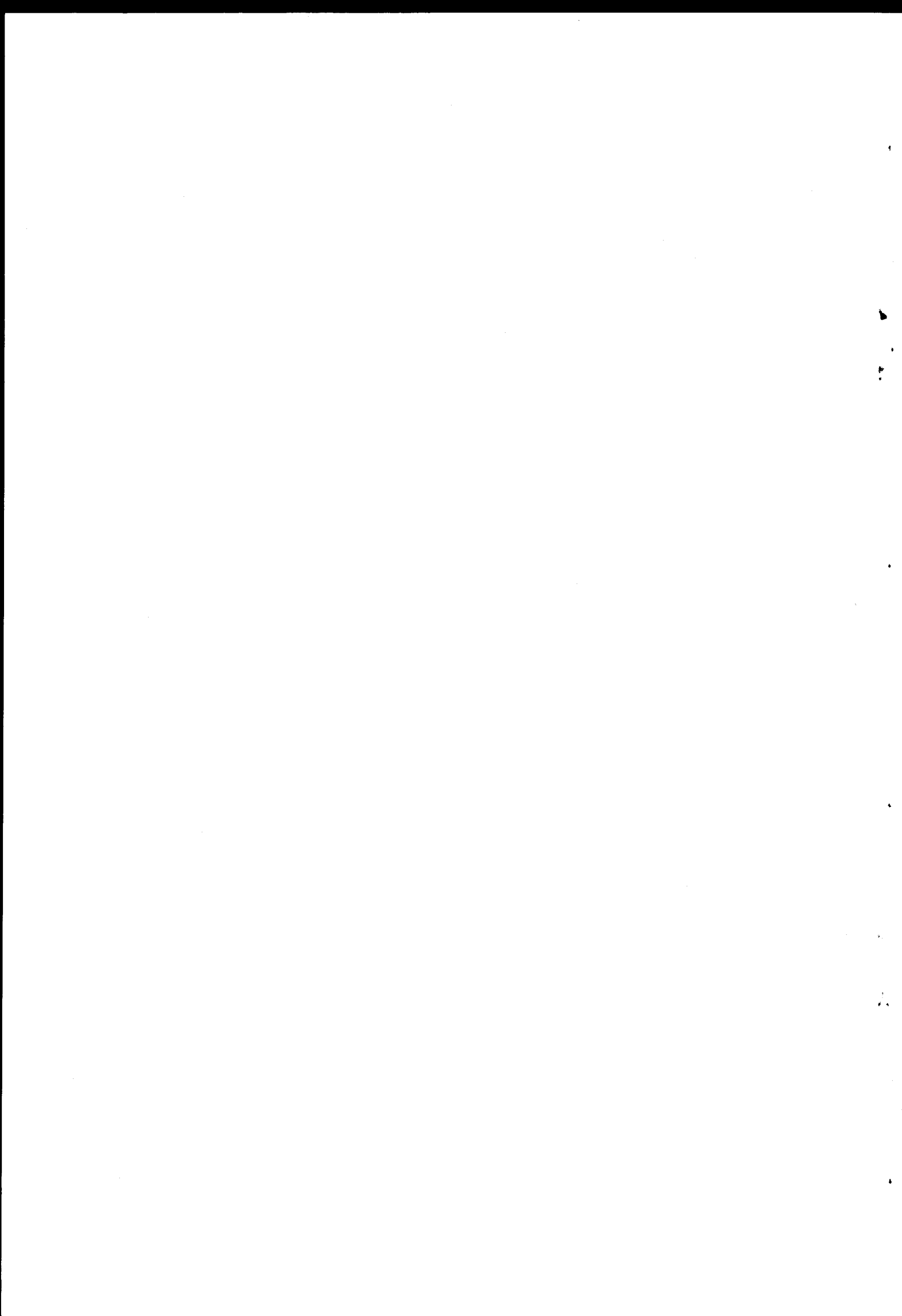
Report

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. 173/75) for a regulation on the opening, allocation and administration of a 1976 Community tariff quota for dried grapes falling within subheading 08.04 B I of the Common Customs Tariff in immediate containers of a net capacity of 15 kg or less (1976)

Rapporteur: Mr G. KASPEREIT

PE 41.380/fin.



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 1976 Community tariff quota for dried grapes falling within subheading 08.04 B I of the Common Customs Tariff in immediate containers of a net capacity of 15 kg or less (1976)

At the plenary sitting of 7 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.

On 17 September 1975 the Committee on External Economic Relations appointed Mr Kaspereit rapporteur. At the same meeting the Committee considered this proposal and unanimously adopted the motion for a resolution and the explanatory statement.

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

The opinion of the Committee on Agriculture is attached.

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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 1976 Community tariff quota for dried grapes falling within subheading No 08.04 B I of the Common Customs Tariff in immediate containers of a net capacity of 15 kg or less.

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 Treaty establishing the EEC (Doc.173/75);
 - having regard to the report of the Committee on External Economic Relations and the opinion of the Committee on Agriculture (Doc.263/75);
- approves the proposal for a regulation

¹ OJ No. C 148, 3.7.1975, p. 10

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

1. The trade agreement between the European Community and Iran stipulated that the Community should open a Community tariff quota for imports of dried grapes in immediate containers of a net capacity of 15 kg or less falling within subheading No 08.04 B I of the Common Customs Tariff.
2. The agreement was not extended beyond 30 November 1973 and for 1974 and 1975 the Community opted to open an autonomous tariff quota under the same conditions as laid down in the agreement.
3. At the consultation meeting held in April 1975, the delegations of the Member States pronounced themselves in favour of the opening for the year 1976 of an autonomous tariff quota at a duty of 1.2% of which the amount should, to avoid the preliminary agreement of the Council of Association provided for by the Association Council decision No.1/75 on the allocation of the provisions of paragraph 3 of Protocol No.10 of the EEC-Greece Association Agreement, be limited to 15% of actual Community imports in 1973, coming from third countries not associated with the Community nor linked with it by a preferential agreement.
4. The draft regulation is designed to implement the decisions taken by the above meeting of delegations from Member States.
5. Since the application of the proposed regulation has no political implications and the amounts in question are of negligible importance, approval can be given to the Commission's proposal in its entirety.

OPINION OF THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

Draftsman: Mr M. VETRONE

On 9 July 1975 the Committee on Agriculture appointed Mr VETRONE draftsman.

It considered the draft opinion at its meeting of 16-17 September 1975 and adopted it unanimously.

Present: Mr Houdet, chairman; Mr Vetrone, vice-chairman and draftsman; Mr Boano, Mr Bourdellès, Mr Della Briotta, Mrs Dunwoody, Mr Frehsee, Mr Hughes, Mr Kofoed, Mr De Koning, Mr Liogier, Mrs Orth, Mr Scott-Hopkins, Lord Walston and Mr Zeller.

1. The Commission's proposal concerns the opening of a 1976 tariff quota for dried grapes at a duty of 1.2% for a volume of 8,373 tonnes, representing 15% of total Community imports in 1973 from non-associated third countries. This quota applies to third countries not associated with the Community or linked to it by a preferential agreement.

2. Since the tariff quota is relatively small compared with total Community imports from third countries (approximately 56,000 tonnes in 1973), the Commission believes that it will be rapidly taken up by the Member States. Consequently, there is no provision in this case for the constitution of a Community reserve, and the quota has been divided into shares allocated definitely to each Member State.

3. The European Parliament has always advocated the constitution of a Community reserve, i.e. a non-divided allocation subsequently available to Member States which have exhausted their respective shares, as it considers that a reserve of this kind emphasizes the Community nature of the administration of quotas.

In this case, however, the Commission's single allocation of the entire quota appears justified by the small volume involved.

4. One general observation on this matter is that the main importing countries of dried grapes, such as the United Kingdom (which imported approximately 27,000 tonnes from third countries in 1973) and Germany (15,567 tonnes), should make greater use of Community production.

The Commission's proposal fails to provide information on Community production of dried grapes and the volumes exported to other Community countries; this would have been particularly useful as it would have enabled us to compare the size of the quota with the total volume of imports and the volume of imports from other Community countries.

5. One final observation arising from the above remarks is that the Commission's recent proposals on wine include the prohibition of the use of table grapes in the making of wine. If this rule is adopted by the Council, a possible outlet for this type of grape might then be found in transforming it, where technically possible, into dried grapes and selling it as such. The Commission should give further information on this point too.

6. With these reservations, the Committee on Agriculture approves the proposal under consideration.