

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

1981 - 1982

3 June 1981

DOCUMENT 1-259/81

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. 1-63/81) for a regulation concerning the import system applicable to certain non-member countries in the sheepmeat and goatmeat sector in 1981

Rapporteur: Mr VANDEMEULEBROUCKE

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By letter of 18 March 1981 the President of the Council of the European Communities requested the European Parliament, pursuant to Article 235 of the EEC Treaty, to deliver an opinion on the proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council for a regulation concerning the import system applicable to certain non-member countries in the shipment and goatmeat sector in 1981.

On 7 April 1981 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 Budgets for its opinion.

On 14 April 1981 the committee appointed Mr Vandemeulebroucke rapporteur. It considered the proposal at its meeting of 20 May 1981.

At the same meeting of 20 May 1981 the committee unanimously adopted the motion for a resolution and the explanatory statement.

Present : Sir Frederick Catherwood, chairman; Mr Van Aerssen, vice-chairman; Mr Vandemeulebroucke, rapporteur; Mr Blumenfeld (deputizing for Mr Giummarra), Mr Cohen (deputizing for Mr Martinet), Mr Deschamps, Mr Irmer, Mr Lemmer, Mrs Lenz, Mr Pelikan, Mr Prout, Mr Rieger, Mr Seeler, and Mr Welsh.

The opinion of the Committee on Budgets will be published seperately.

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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 concerning the import system applicable to certain non-member countries in the sheepmeat and goatmeat sector in 1981

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the proposal from the Commission to the Council¹,
 - having been consulted by the Council pursuant to Article 235 of the EEC Treaty (Doc. 1-63/81),
 - having regard to the report of the Committee on External Economic Relations, and the opinion of the Committee on Budgets (Doc. 1-259/81),
1. Notes with satisfaction the efforts made by the Commission and the Council to improve the Community's customs and agricultural policies;
 2. Approves the Commission's proposal;
 3. Urges all the appropriate Community bodies to bring negotiations with non-member countries in the area concerned to the earliest possible conclusion.

¹ OJ No. C 58, 18 March 1981, p.5

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

1. The aim of the text under consideration is to simplify and harmonize Community legislation on sheepmeat and goatmeat imports:

The countries which export sheepmeat and goatmeat to the Community can be divided into four categories:

(a) Australia, New Zealand, Uruguay, Argentina	96.0%
(b) Austria, Iceland, Poland, Rumania, Yugoslavia	1.8%
(c) Bulgaria, Hungary, Czechoslovakia	1.8%
(d) Others	± 0.3%

	EUR 9	FRG	FRANCE	ITALY	NL	BELG. LUX.	UK	IRELAND	DEN- MARK
Australia	8885	542	196	15	702	323	6982	.	125
New Zealand	218604	7735	2467	3465	605	1484	200718	.	2130
Uruguay	4005	1514	.	2490	1	.	.	.	.
Argentina	10899	9711	196	857	101	34	.	.	.
EFTA-									
Austria	633	164	5	7	.	4	.	.	453
Iceland	617	164	.	.	.	.	.	.	453
Eastern									
Europe-									
Poland	4686	13	.	4667	.	16	.	.	.
Rumania	130	.	.	130	.	.	.	.	.
Yugoslavia	3040	2	.	3038	.	.	.	.	.
Bulgaria	2128	13	.	2106	.	9	.	.	.
Hungary	1751	.	.	1751	.	.	.	.	.
Czechoslo- vakia	650	.	.	650	.	.	.	.	.

2. Special negotiations on the import arrangements applicable to the first three categories (a,b,c) have taken place with a view to containing sheepmeat and goatmeat imports from non-member countries within reasonable limits.

The text under consideration proposes that import arrangements similar to those established during negotiations be applied to countries which do not benefit from such treatment.

3. These are essentially technical measures. The proposed system consists in imposing quota ceilings on imports, but in reducing the value of customs duties levied on imports authorized to enter the Community.

The initial outcome will be a slight reduction in customs revenue, but it is hoped that this will be largely offset by the rationalization of the internal market which should ensue, and by more coherent Community agricultural and customs policies towards non-member countries, which will particularly help to stabilize the world market.

4. The application of this regulation will be under the constant supervision of Member States and the Community so that it can be adjusted to national needs and economic trends.

Council Regulation (EEC) No. 1837/80 of 27 June 1980 establishes arrangements for such supervision, which will apply to the proposed legislation:

'Art. 16:

1. The importation into the Community (or exportation therefrom of any of the products listed in Article 1 (a) and (c)) shall be subject to the submission of an import or export licence issued by the Member States to any applicant who so requests, irrespective of the place of his establishment in the Community.
Such import or export licence shall be valid throughout the Community.

The issue of such licences shall be conditional on the provision of a security as a guarantee that import or export will be effected during the period of validity of the licence. The security shall be wholly or partially forfeit if the operation is not carried out, or is only partially carried out, within that period.

2. The detailed rules for the application of this Article, which may in particular lay down a time limit for the issue of the licences, shall be adopted in accordance with the procedure laid down in Article 26.'

'Art. 26:

1. Where the procedure laid down in this Article is to be followed, the chairman shall refer the matter to the Committee either on his own initiative or at the request of the representative of a Member State.
2. The Commission representative shall submit a draft of the measures to be taken. The Committee shall deliver its opinion on such measures within a time limit to be set by the chairman according to the urgency of the matter. Opinions shall be adopted by a qualified majority.
3. The Commission shall adopt measures which shall apply immediately. However, if these measures are not in accordance with the opinion of the Committee, they shall be forthwith communicated by the Commission to the Council. In that event the Commission may, for not more than one month from the date of such communication defer application of the measures which it has adopted.

The Council, acting by a qualified majority, may take a different decision within one month.'

5. In view of the fact that these are temporary measures pending the conclusion of negotiations with non-member countries, and that the text under examination, in addition to being of a technical nature, establishes a kind of balance between the interests of the parties concerned, it seems especially desirable to approve the Commission's proposal.