

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

1983-1984

8 February 1984

DOCUMENT 1-1393/83

Report

drawn up on behalf of the Committee on Development
and Cooperation

on the proposal from the Commission of the European
Communities to the Council (Doc. 1-1233/83 - COM(83)
669 final) for a regulation on the apportionment of
the quantities of cereals provided for under the Food
Aid Convention for the period 1 July 1983 to 30 June 1986

Rapporteur: Mr M. PONIATOWSKI

PE 88.572/fin.

By letter of 16 December 1983, the Council requested the European Parliament to deliver an opinion on the proposal for a Council regulation (EEC) on the apportionment of the quantities of cereals provided for under the Food Aid Convention for the period 1 July 1983 to 30 June 1986 (Doc. 1-1233/83).

On 16 January 1984, the President of the European Parliament referred this proposal to the Committee on Development and Cooperation as the committee responsible.

At its meeting of 26 January 1984, the Committee on Development and Cooperation appointed Mr Poniatowski rapporteur.

The committee considered the Commission's proposal and the draft report at its meeting of 2 February 1984 when it unanimously adopted the motion for a resolution.

Present: Mr Denis, vice-chairman, acting chairman; Mr Bersani, vice-chairman, acting rapporteur; Mrs Caretoni Romagnoli, Mr Cohne, Mr de Courcy Ling, Mr Ferrero, Mr Irmer, Mr C. Jackson, Mr Lezzi, Mr Vankerkhoven and Mr Wawrzik.

The report was tabled in its final form on 6 February 1984.

The deadline for the tabling of amendments to this report appears in the draft agenda for the part-session at which it will be debated.

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The Committee on Development and Cooperation hereby submits to the European Parliament the following amendment to the Commission's proposal and motion for a resolution, together with explanatory statement:

Amendment tabled by the
Committee on Development and
Cooperation

Text proposed by the Commission
of the European Communities

Proposal for a Council regulation (EEC)
on the apportionment of the quantities of
cereals provided for under the Food Aid
Convention for the period 1 July 1983
to 30 June 1986

Amendment No. 1

Preamble, 2nd recital

Having regard to Council
Regulation (EEC) No. 2750/75¹

Having regard to Council Regulation
(EEC) No. 3331/82 of 3 December 1982
on food-aid policy and food-aid
management and amending Regulation (EEC)
No. 2750/75¹, and in particular the
second and third indents of Article 4(1)
and Article 4(2) thereof,

¹OJ No. L 281, 1.11.1975, p. 89

¹OJ No. L 352, 14.12.1982, p. 1

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

closing the procedure for consultation of the European Parliament on the proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council for a regulation on the apportionment of the quantities of cereals provided for under the Food Aid Convention for the period 1 July 1983 to 30 June 1986

The European Parliament

- A. having regard to the proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council (COM(83) 669 final)¹,
 - B. having been consulted by the Council (Doc. 1-1233/83),
 - C. having regard to the report of the Committee on Development and Cooperation (Doc. 1-1393/83),
 - D. having regard to the result of the vote on the Commission's proposal,
 - E. having regard to the conciliation procedure on the proposal for a Council regulation on food-aid policy and management,
1. Notes that the quantity of food aid in cereals to be contributed by the Community in 1984 under the Food Aid Convention corresponds to the quantities provided for in the general budget of the European Communities;
 2. Stresses that the quantities referred to in the proposed regulation represent the minimum to be provided by the Community and its Member States and hopes that these levels will be exceeded when the need arises;
 3. Points out, in this respect, that the European Parliament increased appropriations in the 1984 budget for additional food aid in cereals to 31.4 million ECU and insists on these funds being fully utilized;

¹ OJ No. C 324, 29.11.1983, p. 7

4. Approves the apportionment of national cereals actions under the Food Aid Convention among the Member States as set out in the Commission's proposal;
5. Deplores the reference to Council Regulation (EEC) No. 3331/82 of 3 December 1982, a regulation which is detrimental to the powers of the European Parliament, and consequently insists on its deletion;
6. Approves the Commission's proposal subject to the deletion of the reference to Council Regulation (EEC) No. 3331/82;
7. Will not accept any delay in the contribution to food aid in the form of cereals based on the Commission's reference to Council Regulation (EEC) No. 3331/82 but emphasizes at the same time that approval of the Commission's proposal must not be regarded as approval of Regulation No. 3331/82 and calls on the Commission, therefore, to draw up a new basic regulation concerning food aid as soon as possible;
8. Instructs its President to forward to the Council and Commission, as Parliament's opinion, the Commission's proposal as voted by Parliament and the corresponding resolution.

B

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

1. The 1980 Food Aid Convention, as extended by the 1983 Protocol to 30 June 1986, lays down a minimum quantity of 1,650,000 tonnes of cereals as the annual contribution from the European Community and its Member States to the target of at least 10 million tonnes of wheat to be provided yearly as food aid to the developing countries.
2. In Item 9201 of the general budget of the European Communities for 1984, appropriations amounting to 113.9 million ECU were entered to cover deliveries by the Community of 727,663 tonnes of cereals other than rice under the 1980 Food Aid Convention. Item 9203 provides 35.8 million ECU to cover the supply by the Community of 100,000 tonnes of rice (equivalent to 200,000 tonnes of wheat) under the same Convention. Thus the 1984 budget has provided for a contribution of 927,663 tonnes wheat equivalent under the Food Aid Convention for 1984 which corresponds to the annual minimum contribution allocated to the Community in the present proposal.
3. The Community action amounts to 56% of the annual Community and Member State contribution of 1,650,000 tonnes of cereals, the remaining 44%, amounting to 722,337 tonnes, being apportioned among the Member States in Article 2 of the proposed regulation.
4. The Committee on Development and Cooperation has no objections to the above apportionment.
5. It should be emphasized that 1,650,000 tonnes represents the minimum contribution pledged by the Community to the Food Aid Convention. In this respect, your rapporteur wishes to point out that during the budgetary procedure, the European Parliament adopted an amendment to Item 9204, tabled by Mr de Courcy Ling on behalf of the Committee on Development and Cooperation, thereby increasing the appropriation earmarked for additional food aid in cereals from 18 million ECU to 31.4 million ECU. These appropriations are for the delivery in 1984 of cereals for developing countries, in particular the least-developed countries, in addition to the quantities to be delivered under the 1980 Food Aid Convention.

Part of these appropriations should be reserved for transfer to Article 929, "Projects in place of food aid", for financing agricultural projects in developing countries that have undertaken to carry out programmes within the framework of food strategies aimed at achieving self-sufficiency in foodstuffs. The Committee on Development and Cooperation insists on these appropriations being fully utilized.

6. The Committee on Development and Cooperation must protest most vigorously, however, at the use by the Commission of Council Regulation (EEC) No.3331/82¹ of 3 December 1982 as the legal basis for the action in question. This Regulation was the subject of a protracted conciliation procedure with the Council which was terminated by the latter in a manner and with results which were quite unacceptable to the European Parliament.

7. As reasons for the unacceptability of the Council Regulation in question have been explained in detail in other documents, it would be superfluous to repeat them here. Nevertheless, it is necessary to emphasize that the decision-making procedures embodied in this Regulation are detrimental to the powers of the European Parliament. For this reason, the Committee on Development and Cooperation insists on reference to this Council Regulation being deleted. This committee proposes that in its place, the present action be based on Council Regulation (EEC) No.2750/75² of 29 October 1975, on the basis of which food aid was previously mobilized.

8. With this proviso, the Committee on Development and Cooperation approves the apportionment of the quantities of cereals as set out in the Commission's proposal.

¹OJ No. L 352, 14.12.1982, p. 1

²OJ No. L 281, 1.11.1975, p. 89