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EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

# Working Documents

1980 - 1981

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9 February 1981

DOCUMENT 1-834/80

## Report

drawn up on behalf of the Committee on Development and Cooperation

**on the recommendation from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council for a regulation concerning the conclusion of the Agreement on the accession of the Republic of Zimbabwe to the second ACP-EEC Convention of Lomé (Doc. 1-710/80)**

and

**on the recommendation from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council for a regulation concluding the Interim Agreement between the European Economic Community and the Republic of Zimbabwe**

**Rapporteur: Mr M. PONIATOWSKI**

1.27.



By letter of 10 December 1980, the President of the Council of the European Communities requested the European Parliament to deliver an opinion on the recommendation for a Council regulation (EEC) concerning the conclusion of the Agreement on the accession of the Republic of Zimbabwe to the second ACP-EEC Convention of Lomé, which is accompanied by the recommendation for a Council regulation (EEC) concluding the Interim Agreement between the European Economic Community and the Republic of Zimbabwe.

On 15 December 1980 the President of the European Parliament referred these draft regulations to the Committee on Development and Cooperation as the committee responsible.

On 21 January 1981 the Committee on Development and Cooperation appointed Mr Poniatoski rapporteur.

It considered the draft report at its meeting of 21 January 1981 and unanimously adopted the motion for a resolution.

Present: Mr Poniatoski, chairman and rapporteur; Mr Bersani, vice-chairman; Mr Barbi (deputizing for Mr Lücker), Mr Cohen, Mr Enright, Mrs Focke, Mr Folitas (deputizing for Mr Glinne), Mr Jaquet, Mr Kellett-Bowman, Mr Michel, Mr Narducci, Mrs Rabbethge, Mr Sablé, Mr Sherlock, Mr Vardakas, Mr Vergeer, Sir Frederick Warner and Mr Wawrzik.

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The Committee on Development and Cooperation 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 recommendation from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council for a regulation concerning the conclusion of the Agreement on the accession of the Republic of Zimbabwe to the second ACP-EEC Convention of Lomé.

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the proposal from the Commission to the Council (COM(80) 783 final),
  - having been consulted by the Council (Doc. 1-710/80),
  - having regard to the recommendation from the Commission to the Council for a regulation concluding the Interim Agreement between the European Economic Community and the Republic of Zimbabwe,
  - having regard to the report of the Committee on Development and Cooperation (Doc. 1-834/80),
1. Emphasizes the special importance and major political implications of the first enlargement of the Lomé II Convention to include the Republic of Zimbabwe;
  2. Hopes that the ratification procedures will be completed rapidly to enable the accession of Zimbabwe to take effect without delay;
  3. Notes the Interim Agreement between the EEC and the Republic of Zimbabwe which entered into force on 1.1.1981;
  4. Notes the special provisions on exports of sugar and beef and veal from Zimbabwe to the Community, but points out that paragraph 2 of the resolution adopted by the ACP-EEC Consultative Assembly on 26 September 1980 called for 'quotas for sugar and beef and veal over and above those provided for under the Lomé II Convention to be granted to Zimbabwe on its accession to the Convention';
  5. Asks for Zimbabwe to become a party to the ACP Sugar Protocol as quickly as possible;
  6. Calls upon the Community to act fully in accordance with the spirit of the Lomé II Convention provisions on the ACP-EEC trade régime; considers that special account must be taken of Zimbabwe's traditional position as a tobacco exporter.

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

The Agreement on the accession of Zimbabwe to the second Convention of Lomé, signed 4 November 1980, is now being ratified by the parliaments of the 10 Member States and Zimbabwe.

An Interim Agreement has been established to cover the period from 1 January 1981 until the entry into force of the act of accession.

Since this is an agreement between the Community and a third country, the European Parliament must be consulted pursuant to Article 238 of the EEC Treaty. In effect, this consultation is equivalent to ratification by the European Parliament.

Under the Agreement on the accession of Zimbabwe to the second Convention of Lomé, Zimbabwe must assume all the rights and obligations deriving from the Convention. Provision has been made for increasing the fifth EDF appropriations to 85m EUA to take account of its accession.

The negotiations therefore covered only the special conditions, particularly in respect of trade, applicable to Zimbabwe on the basis of its special position. They concern the sectors of beef and veal, sugar and tobacco production.

1. Beef and veal

In the framework of the special measures applicable to beef and veal exporting ACP countries, the act of accession allows Zimbabwe to export 8,100 tonnes of beef and veal duty free with 90% abatement on the Community import levy on beef and veal.

In return, Zimbabwe will impose a tax equivalent to the levy abatements on exports of beef and veal. The revenue from this tax will be allocated to the livestock sector.

It should also be noted that under the emergency aid programme, the Community has already allocated 5m EUA for improving the veterinary services in Zimbabwe.

2. Sugar

In a declaration on sugar annexed to the agreement on the accession of Zimbabwe to the second Convention of Lomé, the negotiators:

- noted that Zimbabwe was a party to the Commonwealth Sugar Agreement with an allocation of 25,000 metric tons of sugar;

- felt that Zimbabwe should therefore become a party to the Protocol on Sugar (pursuant to paragraph 1 of the declarations on the Sugar Protocol which provides that 'any request from an ACP State ... to participate in the provisions of that Protocol shall be examined');
- decided that until Zimbabwe became a party to the Sugar Protocol it could, starting from the 82/83 delivery period, supply 25,000 tonnes of sugar to the Community in accordance with the price conditions of the Sugar Protocol.

In other words:

- the Community is in favour of Zimbabwe's becoming a party to the Sugar Protocol without increasing the total ACP quota of 1.3 million tonnes;
- Zimbabwe would have a zero quota under the Sugar Protocol, the 25,000 tonnes being delivered as part of the outstanding ACP quantities;
- even if the negotiations on Zimbabwe's accession to Protocol No. 4 were to fail, the Community undertakes to buy 25,000 tonnes under the terms of the Protocol;
- if purchase of these 25,000 tonnes were to result in the quota of 1.3 million tonnes being exceeded, the surplus would be used as food aid.

### 3. Tobacco

In the minutes annexed to the Agreement the Community informed Zimbabwe a traditional tobacco exporter, of the problems which would ensue from any increase in ACP exports to the Community. In effect this meant that while maintaining the free access for ACP tobacco provided under the Lomé Convention the Community was informing Zimbabwe that if it increased its exports over and above the traditional volume, the safeguard clause could be applied.

#### Comments

Your rapporteur particularly welcomes the forthcoming accession of Zimbabwe to the Lomé Convention. This meets the wish unanimously expressed by the ACP-EEC Consultative Assembly at its last meeting. In its resolution on Zimbabwe, the ACP-EEC Consultative Assembly emphasized the special importance and major political implications of the accession of Zimbabwe. It remains to hope that the ratification procedure will be completed rapidly so that Zimbabwe's accession may become reality.

As regards the provisions on sugar and beef and veal, your rapporteur finds that they satisfy the demands expressed by the ACP-EEC Consultative Assembly which had asked that Zimbabwe be granted quotas for sugar and beef and veal higher than those provided for under the Lomé II Convention (Doc. CA/114).

In the case of sugar, it is now up to the Community to specify how it can fulfil its commitment.

The Community's declarations on tobacco imports, contained in the minutes of the negotiations on the agreement, illustrate the limits to the system of free access to the Community for ACP products. Even if the problems in question should not in fact arise and the safeguard clause did not have to be applied, the Community's attitude remains incompatible with the spirit of the Lomé Convention.