

# Procedure file

Basic information	
CNS - Consultation procedure Regulation	1998/0009(CNS) Procedure completed
ACP States: agricultural products and goods resulting from the processing of these products	
Subject 3.10.03 Marketing and trade of agricultural products and livestock 6.40.06 Relations with ACP countries, conventions and generalities	
Geographical area ACP countries	

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	<b>AGRI</b> Agriculture and Rural Development	NI <a href="#">PARIGI Gastone</a>	18/03/1998
	Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
	<b>BUDG</b> Budgets		
	<b>DEVE</b> Development and Cooperation	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
Council of the European Union	Council configuration	Meeting	Date
	<a href="#">Agriculture and Fisheries</a>	<a href="#">2115</a>	20/07/1998

Key events			
23/01/1998	Legislative proposal published	COM(1998)0011	Summary
20/02/1998	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
24/06/1998	Vote in committee		Summary
24/06/1998	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading	<a href="#">A4-0243/1998</a>	
14/07/1998	Decision by Parliament	T4-0414/1998	Summary
20/07/1998	Act adopted by Council after consultation of Parliament		
20/07/1998	End of procedure in Parliament		
01/08/1998	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information
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Procedure reference	1998/0009(CNS)
Procedure type	CNS - Consultation procedure
Procedure subtype	Legislation
Legislative instrument	Regulation
Legal basis	EC before Amsterdam E 043
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	AGRI/4/09778

### Documentation gateway

Legislative proposal	<a href="#">COM(1998)0011</a> <a href="#">OJ C 108 07.04.1998, p. 0017</a>	23/01/1998	EC	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading	<a href="#">A4-0243/1998</a> <a href="#">OJ C 226 20.07.1998, p. 0003</a>	24/06/1998	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading	T4-0414/1998 <a href="#">OJ C 292 21.09.1998, p. 0017-0025</a>	14/07/1998	EP	Summary

### Additional information

European Commission	<a href="#">EUR-Lex</a>
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### Final act

[Regulation 1998/1706](#)  
[OJ L 215 01.08.1998, p. 0012](#) Summary

## ACP States: agricultural products and goods resulting from the processing of these products

OBJECTIVE: implementation of new trade arrangements applicable to industrial products and goods originating in the ACP countries following the mid-term review of the fourth Lomé Convention. SUBSTANCE: the results of negotiations for the mid-term review of the fourth Lomé Convention were finalized and approved by all parties on 4 November 1995 in Mauritius. However, the revised convention will not come into force until it has been ratified by all the contracting parties. Consequently the Commission is proposing a text seeking to implement a new trade arrangement applicable to agricultural products and goods resulting from the processing of agricultural products originating in the ACP (African Caribbean and Pacific) States pending ratification of the revised convention by all the contracting parties and taking account of the outcome of negotiations concluded in 1995. The new arrangements include commercial provisions covering new concessions; they represent a considerable improvement to the development of trade as part of ACP-EC cooperation. The proposal for a regulation repeals Council Regulation (EEC) No 715/90/EEC applying the earlier trade arrangements and laying down new arrangements from 01.01.1996. The new concessions applicable to agricultural imports from the ACP countries take the form of: - exemption from customs duties for certain products - a reduction in the specific rates of customs duties for other products and/or - an increase in the quotas previously granted in the ACP States. The new arrangements also extend the list of products eligible for a reduction in customs duties and take account of the new combined nomenclature in the agricultural sector following the 1995 GATT multilateral trade negotiations.?

## ACP States: agricultural products and goods resulting from the processing of these products

The Committee adopted the report by Gastone PARIGI (Ind, I) on the arrangements applicable to agricultural products and goods resulting from the processing of agricultural products originating in the ACP States. The Commission proposal, which was adopted as it stood, seeks to implement the agreements on preferential treatment for imports into the EU of agricultural products originating in the ACP States (Fourth Lomé Convention, signed on 4 November 1995). The proposal has two objectives: to grant new concessions to those countries and to make the technical changes required following the GATT agreements which provided, in particular, for the abolition of agricultural import levies and their replacement by customs duties. Once the regulation has been approved by the Council it will come into force retroactively, with effect from 1st January 1996. This means that the difference between the old customs duties that have been in force since that date, and the new reduced duties - a difference which will, moreover, be collected by the EU - will be refunded to ACP exporters, provided that the latter furnish proof of having paid the corresponding export tax in their own countries, where this is provided for by the regulation. The changes, compared with the concessions already in force under Regulation (EEC) No 715/90, are not very significant. By and large, they concern further reductions in the customs duties applicable, the inclusion of new products to which the 16% reduction in duty will apply, or more significant reductions which are limited to single quotas (for instance, a 50% reduction is proposed for pigmeat in respect of a quota of 500 tonnes). For some fruit and

vegetables the changes provide for abolition of the reference quantities, i.e. the quantities which, if exports from the ACP States exceed them, may trigger safeguard mechanisms. In other cases the annual period during which tariff concessions apply has been changed. The cost to the Community budget is minimal (ECU 10m per annum in loss of revenue attributable to the reduction in customs duties and ECU 2.7m in increased expenditure on export refunds on products originating in ACP States which the EU then has to re-export to third countries). The rapporteur tabled two amendments on the "serious crisis affecting the Community rice market", which is partly due to the large-scale imports of rice from the ACP countries and the OCTs. He withdrew the amendments and requested that the procedure of a vote without debate be used at the July part-session.?

## ACP States: agricultural products and goods resulting from the processing of these products

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The European Parliament adopted without debate the report by Mr Gastone PARIGI (NI, I) on the arrangements applicable to agricultural products and goods resulting from the processing of agricultural products in the ACP States. ?

## ACP States: agricultural products and goods resulting from the processing of these products

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OBJECTIVE: to implement new trade arrangements applicable to agricultural products and certain goods originating in the ACP countries following the mid-term review of the fourth Lomé Convention. COMMUNITY MEASURE: Council Regulation (EC) no. 1706/98 on the arrangements applicable to agricultural products and goods resulting from the processing of agricultural products originating in the African, Caribbean and Pacific States (ACP states) and repealing Regulation (EEC) no. 715/90. CONTENTS: As part of the mid-term revision of the 4th Lomé Convention, the present Regulation introduces new commercial arrangements applicable to agricultural products and to certain goods resulting from the processing of agricultural products originating in the ACP states, for which provision is made in the revised Lomé Convention. The new arrangements include commercial provisions covering new concessions; they represent a considerable improvement to the development of trade as part of ACP-EC cooperation. The new concessions applicable to agricultural imports from the ACP countries take the form of: - exemption from customs duties for certain products, - a reduction in the specific rates of customs duties for other products and/or - an increase in the quotas previously granted to the ACP states. The new arrangements also extend the list of products eligible for a reduction in customs duties and take account of the new combined nomenclature in the agricultural sector following the 1995 GATT multilateral trade negotiations. The main products affected by these concessions are beef and veal, sheepmeat and goatmeat, poultry, milk products, eggs, pigmeat, certain fisheries products, fats, cereals and rice. This Regulation repeals Council Regulation (EEC) no. 715/90 which applied the earlier trade arrangements. ENTRY INTO FORCE: 2 August 1998. The Regulation will be applicable with retroactive effect from 1 January 1996.?