


# Procedure file

Basic information		
AVC - Assent procedure (historic)	<a href="#">1999/0108(AVC)</a>	Procedure completed
EC/Switzerland agreement: trade in agricultural products, tariff and non-tariff obstacles		
Subject 3.10.03 Marketing and trade of agricultural products and livestock 6.20.03 Bilateral economic and trade agreements and relations		
Geographical area Switzerland		

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	<b>ITRE</b> Industry, External Trade, Research, Energy		14/10/1999
		PSE <a href="#">CARRARO Massimo</a>	
Council of the European Union	Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
	<b>BUDG</b> Budgets		
	<b>AGRI</b> Agriculture and Rural Development	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
European Commission	Council configuration	Meeting	Date
	<a href="#">Justice and Home Affairs (JHA)</a>	<a href="#">2411</a>	04/04/2002
	<a href="#">General Affairs</a>	<a href="#">2192</a>	21/06/1999
European Commission	Commission DG	Commissioner	
	External Relations		

Key events			
04/05/1999	Initial legislative proposal published	COM(1999)0229	Summary
13/04/2000	Legislative proposal published	<a href="#">09753/1999</a>	Summary
14/04/2000	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
19/04/2000	Vote in committee		Summary
19/04/2000	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading	<a href="#">A5-0118/2000</a>	
03/05/2000	Debate in Parliament		
04/05/2000	Decision by Parliament	<a href="#">T5-0194/2000</a>	Summary

04/04/2002	Act adopted by Council after consultation of Parliament		
04/04/2002	End of procedure in Parliament		
30/04/2002	Final act published in Official Journal		

### Technical information

Procedure reference	1999/0108(AVC)
Procedure type	AVC - Assent procedure (historic)
Procedure subtype	International agreement
Legal basis	EC Treaty (after Amsterdam) EC 300-p4; EC Treaty (after Amsterdam) EC 300-p3-a2; EC Treaty (after Amsterdam) EC 300-p2-a1; EC Treaty (after Amsterdam) EC 133
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed

### Documentation gateway

Initial legislative proposal	COM(1999)0229	04/05/1999	EC	Summary
Supplementary legislative basic document	<a href="#">07260/2000</a>	03/04/2000	CSL	Summary
Legislative proposal	<a href="#">09753/1999</a>	13/04/2000	CSL	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading	<a href="#">A5-0118/2000</a> <a href="#">OJ C 041 07.02.2001, p. 0005</a>	19/04/2000	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading	<a href="#">T5-0194/2000</a> <a href="#">OJ C 041 07.02.2001, p. 0025-0043</a>	04/05/2000	EP	Summary
Implementing legislative act	22002A0430 <a href="#">OJ L 114 30.04.2002, p. 0006-0072</a>	05/04/2002	EU	
Implementing legislative act	<a href="#">32004D0278</a> <a href="#">OJ L 087 25.03.2004, p. 0031-0049</a>	10/02/2004	EU	

### Additional information

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

### Final act

<a href="#">Decision 2002/309</a> <a href="#">OJ L 114 30.04.2002, p. 0001</a> Summary
---

## EC/Switzerland agreement: trade in agricultural products, tariff and non-tariff obstacles

**PURPOSE:** conclusion of an agreement with Switzerland on trade in agricultural products. **CONTENT:** In the context of the overall package of liberalisation agreements negotiated with Switzerland and initialled by the parties on 26.02.1999, the Commission is proposing an agreement on trade in agricultural products. The approach advocated by the Commission is a 'global' one integrating in each of the 7 agreements a common clause regarding simultaneous entry into force (this is to avoid that the referendum process in Switzerland applicable to the approval of these agreements does not give rise to a partial application of the agreements). The aim of the Agreement is to achieve as broad as possible liberalisation of trade in agricultural products between the Community and Switzerland by abolishing tariff and non-tariff barriers to trade according to the principle of reciprocity. The Agreement is expected to significantly improve access to agricultural products on both parties' markets. The arrangements provided for during negotiations on the European Economic Area have been incorporated into the Agreement in accordance with the negotiating directives. It also takes account of both parties' rights and obligation under the Agreement establishing the WTO and its annexes. - On the question of market access, a large number of tariff concessions have been granted for plants

and flowers, fresh and prepared fruit and vegetables, cheeses and milk products, meat products and wine products or sweet wines. In the cheese sector, the agreement provides for the full and reciprocal liberalisation of all cheeses over a five-year period following the Agreement's entry into force. - The Agreement includes a section on the wine sector designed to facilitate trade through mutual recognition of the two sides' respective legislation. This also covers intellectual property rights providing for mutual recognition and protection of geographical indications and designations of origin of wine products. Mutual recognition and protection are also provided for protected denominations of spirit and aromatised wine-product drinks. The Agreement also seeks to facilitate trade between the two sides through mutual recognition of legislation on plant protection, animal feedstuffs, seeds and organic farming. The Agreement also includes veterinary rules designed to facilitate trade in live animals and animal products. In the case of live animals, the two sides' legislation is deemed to be equivalent. For animal products, trade will be based on Community legislation. The agreement also provides that Switzerland will apply the same rules as the Community to imports from third countries.?

## EC/Switzerland agreement: trade in agricultural products, tariff and non-tariff obstacles

---

The Council presented a consolidated version of the agreement on trade in agricultural products between the Community and Switzerland, that also includes the final act and the signatures of all of the contracting parties. It should be recalled that this agreement seeks to considerably improve access to agricultural products on the markets of the two parties while eliminating tariff and non-tariff barriers to trade and is in accordance with the principle of reciprocity. In line with the mandate, the agricultural agreement takes account of arrangements provided for negotiations on the European Economic Area. The agreement takes account of rights and obligations of the two parties provided for in the agreement establishing the WTO and its annexes. As far as the improved access to the markets of the two parties is concerned, an important number of tariff concessions were granted on either side for plants and flowers, fresh or prepared fruits and vegetables, cheese and dairy products, meat products and certain specialist and fortified wines. More particularly, in the cheese sector, the agreement provides for the complete and reciprocal liberalisation of all cheeses at the end of a period of five years following the entry into force of the agreement. The agricultural agreement contains a section dealing with the wine production sector which, by means of the mutual recognition of the parties' respective legislations would have the effect of facilitating trade in these products. This section of the agreement also deals with intellectual property aspects since it provides for the mutual recognition and protection of geographical and traditional designations of wine products. Such mutual recognition and protection is also provided for in the case of protected designations for wine-based spirits and liqueurs. The agricultural agreement also seeks to facilitate trade between the parties by means of the mutual recognition of legislation in the following sectors: phytosanitary, animal feedstuffs, seeds and organic agriculture. Lastly, the agreement includes a section dealing with the veterinary sector which provides for the facilitation of trade in live animals and certain animal products. In the case of live animals, the parties' legislations are recognised as equivalent. For animal products, the trade between the parties will take place according to European Community rules. Furthermore, the agreement provides that Switzerland will apply the same measures to imports from third countries as those of the Community.?

## EC/Switzerland agreement: trade in agricultural products, tariff and non-tariff obstacles

---

The European Parliament adopted its resolution drafted by Mr. Massimo CARRARO (PES, Italy) and gave its assent to the conclusion of the Agreement between the European Community and the Swiss Confederation on trade in agricultural products.?