Procedure file

Basic information

NLE - Non-legislative enactments Decision	2011/0322(NLE)	Procedure completed

EU/Russia Agreement: administration of tariff-rate quotas applying to exports of wood; Protocol on technical modalities

See also 2012/0217(COD)

Subject
3.10.11 Forestry policy
6.20.01 Agreements and relations in the context of the World Trade Organization (WTO)
6.20.03 Bilateral economic and trade agreements and relations
6.20.04 Union Customs Code, tariffs, preferential arrangements, rules of origin

Geographical area
Russian Federation

Key players

European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	INTA International Trade		25/01/2012
		PPE VAIDERE Inese	
		Shadow rapporteur	
		S&D CUTA George Sabin	
		ALDE KOCH-MEHRIN Silvana	
		Verts/ALE TAYLOR Keith	
		ECR STURDY Robert	
	Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
	AGRI Agriculture and Rural Development	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
Council of the European Union	Council configuration	Meeting	Date
	General Affairs	3210	11/12/2012
European Commission	Commission DG	Commissioner	
	Trade	DE GUCHT Karel	

Key events

10/11/2011	Preparatory document	COM(2011)0722	
09/12/2011	Initial legislative proposal published	16775/2011	Summary
17/01/2012	Committee referral announced in Parliament		

30/05/2012	Vote in committee		
01/06/2012	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading	A7-0177/2012	Summary
06/07/2012	Legislative proposal published	16775/1/2011	
21/11/2012	Results of vote in Parliament		
21/11/2012	Decision by Parliament	T7-0439/2012	Summary
11/12/2012	Act adopted by Council after consultation of Parliament		
11/12/2012	End of procedure in Parliament		
19/12/2012	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2011/0322(NLE)
Procedure type	NLE - Non-legislative enactments
Procedure subtype	Consent by Parliament
Legislative instrument	Decision
	See also 2012/0217(COD)
Legal basis	Treaty on the Functioning of the EU TFEU 218-p6a; Treaty on the Functioning of the EU TFEU 207-p4
Other legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 159
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	INTA/7/07968

Documentation gateway

Preparatory document		COM(2011)0722	10/11/2011	EC	
Initial legislative proposal		16775/2011	09/12/2011	CSL	Summary
Document attached to the procedure		16776/2011	09/12/2011	CSL	
Committee draft report		PE486.173	02/04/2012	EP	
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading		A7-0177/2012	01/06/2012	EP	Summary
Legislative proposal		16775/1/2011	06/07/2012	CSL	
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading		T7-0439/2012	21/11/2012	EP	Summary

Additional information

National parliaments	IPEX
European Commission	EUR-Lex

Final act

Decision 2012/793
OJ L 349 19.12.2012, p. 0003 Summary

EU/Russia Agreement: administration of tariff-rate quotas applying to exports of wood; Protocol on technical modalities

PURPOSE: to conclude the Agreement in the form of an Exchange of Letters between the EU and Russia relating to the administration of tariff-rate quotas applying to exports of wood from the Russia to the EU and the Protocol between the EU and the Government of Russia on technical modalities pursuant to that Agreement.

PROPOSED ACT: Council Decision.

BACKGROUND: the Agreement in the form of an Exchange of Letters between the European Union and Russia relating to the administration of tariff-rate quotas applying to exports of wood from Russia to the European Union and the Protocol between the European Union and the Government of Russia on technical modalities pursuant to that Agreement, were signed and subject to their conclusion.

It is now necessary to approve the Agreement and the Protocol.

IMPACT ASSESSMENT: no impact assessment was carried out.

LEGAL BASE: the first subparagraph of Article 207(4) in conjunction with Article 218(6)(a) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU).

CONTENT: in the context of the process of its accession to the WTO, Russia has agreed to reduce its currently applied export duty rates on raw wood products. For certain types of wood, namely some coniferous wood species, Russia has agreed to open tariff-rate quotas for exports of those products and allocate a specific quota share to the EU. The quotas have been set at a level that is relatively large for the EU at least in consideration of expected demand during the first periods of application. The export duty rates and tariff-rate quotas, as well as the share of those quotas allocated to exports to the EU, have been included in Russia's Schedule of Concessions, which will be annexed to Russia's WTO accession Protocol.

A bilateral agreement, in the form of an exchange of letters, negotiated between the EU and the Russian Federation establishes general provisions on the implementation of the share of the tariff-rate quotas for exports of wood products concerned to the EU. In particular, the Agreement provides that quantities of the EU share of the tariff-rate quotas shall be managed by the EU, and that the Russian Federation shall issue export licences based on the relevant import documentation issued by the EU.

The Agreement also provides for the elaboration by the EU and the Russian Federation of more detailed technical modalities on the management of the tariff-rate quotas by the entry into force of the Agreement. Such technical modalities are contained in a Protocol, negotiated between the EU and the Government of the Russian Federation (hereinafter referred to as the "Protocol"). The Protocol establishes the rules regarding the management of the export tariff-rate quotas and of exports within those quotas, including provisions on the cooperation of the competent authorities of the European Union and the Government of the Russian Federation necessary to ensure the adequate operation of the system.

In order to ensure the effective application of the management system provided for in the Agreement and the Protocol by the time of the accession of the Russian Federation to the WTO, the Agreement and the Protocol should be applied provisionally from the date of such accession.

Implementing provisions: in order to ensure uniform conditions for the implementation of the provisions of the Agreement and the Protocol regarding the management of the tariff-rate quotas applying to exports of wood from the Russian Federation to the Union, implementing powers should be conferred on the Commission. Those powers should be exercised in accordance with Regulation (EU) No 182/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council laying down the rules and general principles concerning mechanisms for control by the Member States of the Commission's exercise of implementing powers.

BUDGET IMPLICATION: the proposal has no implication for the EU budget.

EU/Russia Agreement: administration of tariff-rate quotas applying to exports of wood; Protocol on technical modalities

The Committee on International Trade adopted the report drafted by Inese VAIDERE (EPP, LV) in which it recommends the European Parliament to give its consent to the conclusion of the Agreement in the form of an Exchange of Letters between the European Union and the Russian Federation relating to the administration of tariff-rate quotas applying to exports of wood from the Russian Federation to the European Union and the Protocol between the European Union and the Government of the Russian Federation on technical modalities pursuant to that Agreement.

Members recall that the EU has a strong offensive interest in this agreement as it provides for significant improvement in the supply of wood from Russia. It is paramount to avoid recurrence of the consecutive increases of wood export duties applied by Russia since 2007 which affected many EU producers. The agreement brings more predictability and better trade conditions.

EU/Russia Agreement: administration of tariff-rate quotas applying to exports of wood; Protocol on technical modalities

The European Parliament adopted a legislative resolution on the draft Council decision on the conclusion of the Agreement in the form of an Exchange of Letters between the European Union and the Russian Federation relating to the administration of tariff-rate quotas applying to exports of wood from the Russian Federation to the European Union and the Protocol between the EU and the Government of the Russian

Federation on technical modalities pursuant to that Agreement.

Parliament gave its consent to conclusion of the Agreement and of the Protocol.

EU/Russia Agreement: administration of tariff-rate quotas applying to exports of wood; Protocol on technical modalities

PURPOSE: to conclude the Agreement in the form of an Exchange of Letters between the EU and Russia relating to the administration of tariff-rate quotas applying to exports of wood from the Russia to the EU and the Protocol between the EU and the Government of Russia on technical modalities pursuant to that Agreement.

NON-LEGISLATIVE ACT: Council Decision 2012/793/EU on the conclusion of the Agreement in the form of an Exchange of Letters between the European Union and the Russian Federation relating to the administration of tariff-rate quotas applying to exports of wood from the Russian Federation to the European Union and the Protocol between the European Union and the Government of the Russian Federation on technical modalities pursuant to that Agreement.

BACKGROUND: in accordance with Council Decision 2012/105/EU, the Agreement in the form of an Exchange of Letters between the European Union and Russia relating to the administration of tariff-rate quotas applying to exports of wood from Russia to the EU and the Protocol between the EU and Russia on technical modalities pursuant to that Agreement, were signed on 16 December 2011, subject to their conclusion.

The Agreement and the Protocol should now be approved on behalf of the EU.

CONTENT: with this Decision, the Agreement in the form of an Exchange of Letters between the European Union and the Russian Federation relating to the administration of tariff-rate quotas applying to exports of wood from the Russian Federation to the European Union, and the Protocol between the European Union and the Government of the Russian Federation on technical modalities pursuant to that Agreement are hereby approved on behalf of the Union.

Principles: in the context of the process of its accession to the WTO, Russia has agreed to reduce its currently applied export duty rates on raw wood products. For certain types of wood, namely some coniferous wood species, Russia has agreed to open tariff-rate quotas for exports of those products and allocate a specific quota share to the EU. The quotas have been set at a level that is relatively large for the EU at least in consideration of expected demand during the first periods of application. The export duty rates and tariff-rate quotas, as well as the share of those quotas allocated to exports to the EU, have been included in Russia's Schedule of Concessions, which will be annexed to Russia's WTO accession Protocol.

A bilateral agreement, in the form of an exchange of letters, negotiated between the EU and the Russian Federation establishes general provisions on the implementation of the share of the tariff-rate quotas for exports of wood products concerned to the EU. In particular, the Agreement provides that quantities of the EU share of the tariff-rate quotas shall be managed by the EU, and that the Russian Federation shall issue export licences based on the relevant import documentation issued by the EU.

The Agreement also provides for the elaboration by the EU and Russia more detailed technical modalities on the management of the tariff-rate quotas by the entry into force of the Agreement. Such technical modalities are contained in a Protocol, negotiated between the EU and Russia. The Protocol establishes the rules regarding the management of the export tariffrate quotas and of exports within those quotas, including provisions on the cooperation of the competent authorities of the European Union and the Government of the Russian Federation necessary to ensure the adequate operation of the system.

Provisional application: in order to ensure the effective application of the management system provided for in the Agreement and the Protocol by the time of the accession of the Russian Federation to the WTO, the Agreement and the Protocol should be applied provisionally from the date of such accession.

Implementation conditions: in order to ensure uniform conditions for the implementation of the provisions of the Agreement and the Protocol regarding the management of the tariff-rate quotas applying to exports of wood from the Russian Federation to the Union, implementing powers should be conferred on the Commission. Those powers should be exercised in accordance with Regulation (EU) No 182/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council laying down the rules and general principles concerning mechanisms for control by the Member States of the Commission's exercise of implementing powers.

ENTRY INTO FORCE: this Decision shall enter into force on 11 December 2012. The date of entry into force of the Agreement and the Protocol will be published in the Official Journal of the European Union by the General Secretariat of the Council.