

Procedure file

Basic information	
<p>COD - Ordinary legislative procedure (ex-codecision procedure) Regulation 2013/0325(COD)</p>	Procedure completed
<p>Autonomous trade preferences for Moldova</p>	
<p>Subject</p> <p>3.10.06.08 Wine, alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages</p> <p>6.20.03 Bilateral economic and trade agreements and relations</p> <p>6.20.04 Union Customs Code, tariffs, preferential arrangements, rules of origin</p>	
<p>Geographical area</p> <p>Moldova</p>	

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	INTA International Trade		14/10/2013
		PPE WINKLER Iuliu	
		Shadow rapporteur	
		S&D CUTA George Sabin	
		Verts/ALE ANDERSDOTTER Amelia	
		ECR MUSCARDINI Cristiana	
		EFD (THE EARL OF) DARTMOUTH William	
	Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
	AFET Foreign Affairs	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
	AGRI Agriculture and Rural Development	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
Council of the European Union	Council configuration	Meeting	Date
	Agriculture and Fisheries	3285	16/12/2013
European Commission	Commission DG	Commissioner	
	Agriculture and Rural Development	CIOLOȘ Dacian	

Key events			
25/09/2013	Legislative proposal published	COM(2013)0678	Summary
08/10/2013	Committee referral announced in Parliament, 1st reading		
28/11/2013	Vote in committee, 1st reading		

02/12/2013	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading	A7-0422/2013	Summary
10/12/2013	Results of vote in Parliament		
10/12/2013	Decision by Parliament, 1st reading	T7-0521/2013	Summary
16/12/2013	Act adopted by Council after Parliament's 1st reading		
16/12/2013	End of procedure in Parliament		
17/12/2013	Final act signed		
28/12/2013	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2013/0325(COD)
Procedure type	COD - Ordinary legislative procedure (ex-codecision procedure)
Procedure subtype	Legislation
Legislative instrument	Regulation
Legal basis	Treaty on the Functioning of the EU TFEU 207-p2
Other legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 159
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	INTA/7/14089

Documentation gateway

Legislative proposal		COM(2013)0678	25/09/2013	EC	Summary
Committee draft report		PE521.592	16/10/2013	EP	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE522.982	07/11/2013	EP	
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading		A7-0422/2013	02/12/2013	EP	Summary
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading		T7-0521/2013	10/12/2013	EP	Summary
Draft final act		00111/2013/LEX	17/12/2013	CSL	
Commission response to text adopted in plenary		SP(2014)148	13/02/2014	EC	

Additional information

National parliaments	IPEX
European Commission	EUR-Lex

Final act

[Regulation 2013/1384](#)
[OJ L 354 28.12.2013, p. 0085](#) Summary

PURPOSE : to fully liberalise import of wine from Moldova into the EU.

PROPOSED ACT : Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council

BACKGROUND : Council Regulation (EC) No 55/20082 established a specific scheme of autonomous trade preferences (ATPs) for Moldova, which gives all products originating in Moldova free access to the Union market, except for certain agricultural products listed in Annex I to that Regulation. For the latter, limited concessions have been granted either in the form of exemption from customs duties within the limit of tariff quotas or of reduction of customs duties.

In June 2013, the EU finalised negotiations with Moldova on the Association Agreement, including the establishment of a deep and comprehensive free trade area (DCFTA). In the framework of those negotiations, the Parties have proposed to fully liberalise the bilateral trade in wine. Moldova is currently experiencing difficulties with wine exports to some of its traditional markets, which threatens its economic recovery and the reform process that is vigorously pursued by the Moldovan government. The agricultural sector represents around 40 % of Moldova's economy and the wine sector is an important part of it, providing employment to some 300,000 people (one fourth of the working population), who mainly live in rural areas and cultivate medium to smaller family plots.

The import of wine from Moldova into the Union should be liberalised without delay.

LEGAL BASIS : Article 207(2) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union.

IMPACT ASSESSMENT : no impact assessment was undertaken

CONTENT : the draft regulation proposes to fully liberalise import of wine from Moldova into the EU by amending Council Regulation (EC) 55/20081 and removing wine from Table 1 of Annex I. Accordingly, in the table in point 1 of Annex I to Regulation (EC) No 55/2008, the last row concerning order No 09.0514 "Wine of fresh grapes other than sparkling wine" will be deleted.

It should be noted that the WTO waiver for the tariff preferences granted to Moldova does not cover the additional preferences for wine envisaged by the proposed regulation. Moreover, the waiver will expire on 31 December 2013. Accordingly, the EU should request pursuant to paragraph 3 of Article IX of the WTO Agreement the necessary extension and amendment of the scope of the existing waiver of its obligations under Article I and Article XIII of the GATT 1994 to the extent necessary to permit the EU to afford duty-free preferential treatment to wine originating in Moldova, without being required to extend the same duty-free treatment to like products of any other WTO Member. A [Commission proposal to request the extension of the waiver](#) is already pending before the Council.

BUDGETARY IMPLICATIONS: the proposed Regulation does not incur costs charged to the EU budget. As the general level of wine imports from Moldova is merely 0.6% of all EU wine imports further market opening is not expected to create negative effects for the EU.

Autonomous trade preferences for Moldova

The Committee on International Trade adopted the report by Iuliu WINKLER (EPP, RO) on the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Council Regulation (EC) No 55/2008 introducing autonomous trade preferences for the Republic of Moldova.

The committee recommended that the European Parliament's position adopted at first reading, following the ordinary legislative procedure, should amend the Commission proposal as follows:

Waiver granted by the WTO: Article 16 par. 3, 4 and 5 of Regulation (EC) 55//2008 refers to the WTO waiver granted to the EU in order to allow for a preferential treatment of imports of certain goods from Moldova. The current waiver will expire on 31 December 2013. The Commission submitted to the WTO a request to extend the existing waiver until 31 December 2015. Pending the WTO decision, Members considered it important to ensure the undisrupted trade flows from Moldova, thereby providing legal certainty for the economic operators. Members considered that the references to the WTO waiver should therefore be deleted from the Regulation.

Application: having regard to the time constraints for the adoption of the amending Regulation, Members considered it important to ensure that it enters into force as soon as possible after the publication. They proposed setting the date of application for 1 January 2014.

Autonomous trade preferences for Moldova

The European Parliament adopted by 503 votes to 14, with 17 abstentions, a legislative resolution on the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Council Regulation (EC) No 55/2008 introducing autonomous trade preferences for the Republic of Moldova.

Parliament adopted its position at first reading following the ordinary legislative procedure. The amendment adopted in plenary are the result of a compromise negotiated between the European Parliament and the Council:

- Preferential treatment of imports of certain goods from Moldova: Article 16 par. 3, 4 and 5 of Regulation (EC) 55//2008 refers to the WTO waiver granted to the EU in order to allow for a preferential treatment of imports of certain goods from Moldova. The current waiver will expire on 31 December 2013. The Commission submitted to the WTO a request to extend the existing waiver until 31 December 2015. Pending the WTO decision, it is provided to ensure the undisrupted trade flows from Moldova, thereby providing legal certainty for the economic operators. Consequently, the references to the WTO waiver should therefore be deleted from the Regulation.
- Application: having regard to the time constraints for the adoption of the amending Regulation, it is requested that the draft Regulation enter into force as soon as possible after the publication. They proposed setting the date of application for 1 January 2014.

Autonomous trade preferences for Moldova

PURPOSE: to fully liberalise import of wine from Moldova into the EU.

LEGISLATIVE ACT: Regulation (EU) No 1384/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Council Regulation (EC) No 55/2008 introducing autonomous trade preferences for the Republic of Moldova.

BACKGROUND: [Council Regulation \(EC\) No 55/2008](#) established a specific scheme of autonomous trade preferences (ATPs) for Moldova, which gives all products originating in Moldova free access to the Union market, except for certain agricultural products listed in Annex I to that Regulation. For the latter, limited concessions have been granted either in the form of exemption from customs duties within the limit of tariff quotas or of reduction of customs duties.

Negotiations on a new Association Agreement, including the establishment of a deep and comprehensive free trade area between the Union and Moldova, started in January 2010 and were finalised in July 2013. That Agreement provides for the full liberalisation of bilateral trade in wine.

In order to support the efforts of Moldova in accordance with the ENP and the Eastern Partnership, and to provide an attractive and reliable market for its wine exports, the import of wine from Moldova into the Union should be liberalised without delay.

Regulation (EC) No 55/2008 should therefore be amended accordingly.

CONTENT: the Regulation proposes solely to fully liberalise import of wine from Moldova into the EU by amending Council Regulation (EC) 55/2008 and removing wine from Table 1 of Annex I of the 2008 Regulation. Accordingly, in the table in point 1 of Annex I to Regulation (EC) No 55/2008, the last row concerning order No 09.0514 "Wine of fresh grapes other than sparkling wine" will be deleted.

ENTRY INTO FORCE: 29.12.2013. The Regulation is applicable from 1 January 2014.