

Procedure file

Basic information	
CNS - Consultation procedure Decision	2013/0413(CNS) Procedure completed
Excise duty and VSS: application by France of a reduced rate on 'traditional' rum produced in Guadeloupe, French Guiana, Martinique and Réunion in 2014-2020	
Repealing Decision 2007/659/EC 2007/0131(CNS) Amended by 2017/0127(CNS)	
Subject 2.70.02 Indirect taxation, VAT, excise duties 3.10.06.08 Wine, alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages 4.70.06 Outlying and outermost regions, overseas countries and territories	

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	REGI Regional Development		18/12/2013
		PPE HÜBNER Danuta Maria	
	Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
	ECON Economic and Monetary 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
	Competitiveness (Internal Market, Industry, Research and Space)	3295	20/02/2014
European Commission	Commission DG	Commissioner	
	Taxation and Customs Union	ŠEMETA Algirdas	

Key events			
25/11/2013	Legislative proposal published	COM(2013)0839	Summary
18/12/2013	Vote in committee		
08/01/2014	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading	A7-0013/2014	Summary
13/01/2014	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
16/01/2014	Results of vote in Parliament		
16/01/2014	Decision by Parliament	T7-0034/2014	Summary
20/02/2014	Act adopted by Council after consultation		

	of Parliament		
20/02/2014	End of procedure in Parliament		
28/02/2014	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2013/0413(CNS)
Procedure type	CNS - Consultation procedure
Procedure subtype	Legislation
Legislative instrument	Decision
	Repealing Decision 2007/659/EC 2007/0131(CNS) Amended by 2017/0127(CNS)
Legal basis	Treaty on the Functioning of the EU TFEU 349-p1sub1-as1
Other legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 159
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	REGI/7/14668

Documentation gateway

Legislative proposal		COM(2013)0839	25/11/2013	EC	Summary
Committee draft report		PE526.050	11/12/2013	EP	
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading		A7-0013/2014	08/01/2014	EP	Summary
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading		T7-0034/2014	16/01/2014	EP	Summary

Additional information

European Commission	EUR-Lex
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Final act

Decision 2014/189 OJ L 059 28.02.2014, p. 0001 Summary

Excise duty and VSS: application by France of a reduced rate on 'traditional' rum produced in Guadeloupe, French Guiana, Martinique and Réunion in 2014-2020

PURPOSE: [to authorise France to apply a reduced rate of certain indirect taxes on traditional rum produced in Guadeloupe, French Guiana, Martinique and Réunion.](#)

PROPOSED ACT: Council Decision.

ROLE OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT: the Council adopts the act after consulting the European Parliament but without being obliged to follow its opinion.

BACKGROUND: Council Decision°2007/659/EC authorises France to apply to 'traditional' rum produced in its overseas departments and sold on the French mainland a reduced rate of excise duty which may be lower than the minimum rate of excise duty set by Directive 92/84/EEC but not more than 50% lower than the standard national excise duty on alcohol. From 1 January 2011, the reduction in excise duty is limited to an annual quota of 120 000 hl of pure alcohol. The derogation expired on 31 December 2013.

On 12 March 2013, the French authorities asked the Commission to submit a proposal for a Council Decision extending the derogation in Council Decision 2007/659/EC under the same conditions, for a further seven years until 31 December 2020. They also asked the

Commission to extend the scope of the Council Decision so as to apply also to the cotisation sur les boissons alcooliques (also known as the Vignette Sécurité Sociale (VSS)), and to amend Council Decision 2007/695/EC retroactively, i.e. as of 1 January 2012 by extending it to cover the VSS so that a lower rate can be applied to traditional rum produced in the four French outermost regions.

Given the small scale of the local market, the overseas departments distilleries can develop their activities only if they have sufficient access to the market in mainland France, which is the main outlet for their rum (71% of rum).

The Commission recommends adopting a new Decision on a derogation covering both taxes: the differentiation of the excise duty as set out in Directive 92/84/EEC and the VSS, instead of extending the derogation set out in Decision 2007/659/EC.

CONTENT: the proposal aims to authorise France to apply, from 1 January 2014 to 31 December 2020, a reduced rate of excise duty and of the levy called cotisation sur les boissons alcooliques (VSS) to traditional rum produced in Guadeloupe, French Guiana, Martinique and Réunion for an annual quota of 120 000 hectolitres of pure alcohol.

It is proposed that France be allowed to apply a reduced rate of excise duty and VSS of up to 50% of the respective standard rates but that the cumulative reduction in both excise duty and VSS should not be higher than 50% of the full rate for alcohol set in application of Directive 92/84/EEC.

For 2012 and 2013, the proposal aims to include the VSS within its scope, retroactively, i.e. as of 1 January 2012 so that a lower rate of VSS can be applied for traditional rum produced in Guadeloupe, French Guiana, Martinique and Réunion.

The Commission also proposes that the French authorities send a mid-term report to the Commission by 31 July 2017 in order to assess whether the reasons which justify the granting of the tax derogation still apply and whether the fiscal advantage granted by France remains proportionate and sufficient to compensate the cane-sugar-rum value chain in Guadeloupe, French Guiana, Martinique and Réunion. This mid-term report shall also include up-dated information on the associated marketing costs.

In case the information provided demonstrates that the tax derogation is not, partly or entirely, justified any more, or is less suitable than alternative measures, a phasing out process could be introduced until the end of the period.

Excise duty and VSS: application by France of a reduced rate on 'traditional' rum produced in Guadeloupe, French Guiana, Martinique and Réunion in 2014-2020

The Committee on Regional Development within the framework of a special legislative procedure (consultation of Parliament) a report by Danuta Maria HÜBNER (PPE, PL) on the proposal for a Council decision authorising France to apply a reduced rate of certain indirect taxes on traditional rum produced in Guadeloupe, French Guiana, Martinique and Réunion and amending Decision 2007/659/EC.

It recalled that Council Decision 2007/659/EC of 9 October 2007 authorised France to apply to 'traditional' rum produced in its overseas departments and sold on the French mainland a reduced rate of excise duty which may be lower than the minimum rate of excise duty set by Directive 92/84/EEC but not more than 50% lower than the standard national excise duty on alcohol. The reduction in excise duty is limited to an annual quota of 120 000 hl of pure alcohol. This derogation expired on 31 December 2013.

On 12 March 2013, the French authorities asked the Commission to submit a proposal for a Council Decision extending Council Decision 2007/659/EC under the same conditions, for a further seven years until 31 December 2020. This request was supplemented and modified on 3 July and 2 August 2013.

On the basis of these requests, the Commission proposed that for 2014-2020 France be allowed to apply a reduced rate of excise duty and the Vignette Sécurité Sociale (VSS) of up to 50% of the respective standard rates but that the cumulative reduction in both excise duty and VSS is not higher than 50% of the full rate for alcohol set in application of Directive 92/84/EEC.

Given the urgency in adopting this measure and that it aims at stimulating the economy of outermost regions, the Committee recommended that this proposal be adopted without amendment.

Excise duty and VSS: application by France of a reduced rate on 'traditional' rum produced in Guadeloupe, French Guiana, Martinique and Réunion in 2014-2020

The European Parliament adopted by 455 votes to 94, with 22 abstentions within the framework of a special legislative procedure (consultation of Parliament) a legislative resolution on the proposal for a Council decision authorising France to apply a reduced rate of certain indirect taxes on traditional rum produced in Guadeloupe, French Guiana, Martinique and Réunion and amending Decision 2007/659/EC.

Following the Committee on Regional Development, the European Parliament approved the Commission proposal without amendment.

Excise duty and VSS: application by France of a reduced rate on 'traditional' rum produced in Guadeloupe, French Guiana, Martinique and Réunion in 2014-2020

PURPOSE: to authorise France to apply a reduced rate of certain indirect taxes on traditional rum produced in Guadeloupe, French Guiana, Martinique and Réunion.

LEGISLATIVE ACT: Council Decision No 189/2014/EU authorising France to apply a reduced rate of certain indirect taxes on traditional rum produced in Guadeloupe, French Guiana, Martinique and Réunion and repealing Decision 2007/659/EC.

CONTENT: Council Decision 2007/659/EC authorised France to apply to traditional rum produced in Guadeloupe, French Guiana, Martinique and Réunion and sold on the French mainland a reduced rate of excise duty which may be lower than the minimum rate of excise duty set by Council Directive 92/84/EEC but not more than 50 % lower than the standard national excise duty on alcohol. As of 1 January 2011, the

reduced rate of excise duty is limited to an annual quota of 120 000 hectolitres of pure alcohol (hpa). That derogation expired on 31 December 2013.

The French authorities asked the Commission to submit a proposal for a Council decision extending the derogation set out in Decision 2007/659/EC, under the same conditions, for seven years, until 31 December 2020.

It is necessary to remedy the difficulty for traditional rum to compete on the Union market. Traditional rum sold in French mainland is typically marketed in bigger bottles (60 % of rum is sold in bottles containing 1 litre) and at higher levels of alcohol (ranging from 40° to 59°) than competing rums, which are typically marketed in smaller bottles. The higher levels of alcohol content trigger in turn higher excise duties, a higher VSS and, in addition, a higher value added tax (VAT) per litre of rum sold. Given the small scale of the local market, the distilleries in the four outermost regions concerned can develop their activities only if they have sufficient access to the market in the French mainland, which is the main outlet for their rum (71 %).

Under these circumstances, France is authorised to extend from 1 January 2014 until 31 December 2020, the application on the French mainland, to traditional rum produced in Guadeloupe, French Guiana, Martinique and Réunion, of a rate of excise duty lower than the full rate for alcohol and to apply a rate of the levy called cotisation sur les boissons alcooliques (VSS) lower than the full rate applicable according to the French national legislation.

The cumulative tax advantage authorised shall not exceed 50% of the full rate for alcohol.

The derogation shall be limited to rum produced from sugar cane harvested at the place of manufacture, having a content of volatile substances other than ethyl and methyl alcohol equal to or exceeding 225 grams per hectolitre of pure alcohol and an alcoholic strength by volume of 40° or more. This derogation shall be confined to an annual quota of 120 000 hectolitres of pure alcohol.

By 31 July 2017, France shall submit a report to the Commission to enable it to assess whether the reasons justifying the derogation still exist and whether the fiscal advantage granted by France has remained and is expected to remain proportionate and sufficient to support a competitive cane- sugar-rum value chain in Guadeloupe, French Guiana, Martinique and Réunion.

ENTRY INTO FORCE: this Decision shall apply from 1 January 2014 until 31 December 2020.