Procedure file

Basic information

NLE - Non-legislative enactments	2016/0058(NLE)	Procedure completed

EU/Uruguay Agreement: modification of concessions in the schedule of Croatia in the course of its accession to the European Union

Subject
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
Uruguay

Key players

European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	INTA International Trade		20/04/2016
		ZALBA BIDEGAIN Pablo	
		Shadow rapporteur	
		DANTI Nicola	
		ZAHRADIL Jan	
		CHARANZOVÁ Dita	
		SARGENTINI Judith	
		BEGHIN Tiziana	
	Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
	AFET Foreign Affairs	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
Council of the European Union	Council configuration	Meeting	Date
	General Affairs	3494	18/10/2016
European Commission	Commission DG	Commissioner	
	Trade	MALMSTRÖM Cecilia	

Key events

03/03/2016	Preparatory document	COM(2016)0103	Summary
30/03/2016	Legislative proposal published	06870/2016	Summary
04/07/2016	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
14/07/2016	Vote in committee		
19/07/2016	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading	A8-0241/2016	Summary
13/09/2016	Results of vote in Parliament		
13/09/2016	Decision by Parliament	T8-0327/2016	Summary
18/10/2016	Act adopted by Council after consultation of Parliament		
18/10/2016	End of procedure in Parliament		
26/10/2016	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2016/0058(NLE)
Procedure type	NLE - Non-legislative enactments
Procedure subtype	Consent by Parliament
Legal basis	Treaty on the Functioning of the EU TFEU 207-p4; Treaty on the Functioning of the EU TFEU 218-p6a
Other legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 159
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	INTA/8/05969

Documentation gateway

Document attached to the procedure		COM(2016)0094	03/03/2016	EC	
Preparatory document		COM(2016)0103	03/03/2016	EC	Summary
Legislative proposal		06870/2016	30/03/2016	CSL	Summary
Document attached to the procedure		06871/2016	30/03/2016	CSL	
Committee draft report		PE582.406	26/05/2016	EP	
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading		A8-0241/2016	19/07/2016	EP	Summary
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading		T8-0327/2016	13/09/2016	EP	Summary

Final act

Decision 2016/1884
OJ L 291 26.10.2016, p. 0001 Summary

EU/Uruguay Agreement: modification of concessions in the schedule of Croatia in the course of its accession to the European Union

PURPOSE: to conclude an Agreement in the form of an Exchange of Letters between the European Union and the Eastern Republic of Uruguay pursuant to Article XXIV:6 and Article XXVIII of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) 1994 relating to the modification of concessions in the schedule of the Republic of Croatia in the course of its accession to the European Union.

PROPOSED ACT: Council Decision.

ROLE OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT: Council may adopt the act only if Parliament has given its consent to the act.

BACKGROUND: with the accession of Croatia, the European Union enlarged its customs union. Consequently, the European Union was required under World Trade Organisation (WTO) rules (Article XXIV:6 of the GATT 1994) to enter into negotiations with WTO Members having negotiating rights related to the tariff schedule of Croatia in order to eventually agree on a compensatory adjustment.

On 15 July 2013, the Council authorised the Commission to open negotiations under Article XXIV:6 of the GATT 1994. The Commission has negotiated with the Members of the WTO holding negotiating rights with respect to the withdrawal of specific concessions in relation to the withdrawal of the schedule of the Republic of Croatia in the course of its accession to the European Union.

The Council (Trade Policy Committee) has been regularly consulted on the content and advancement of the negotiations. The European Parliament (INTA Committee) has been informed.

Negotiations with the Eastern Republic of Uruguay resulted in a draft Agreement in the form of an Exchange of Letters that was initialled on 18 December 2015 in Nairobi (the Agreement).

CONTENT: this proposal asks the Council to adopt a decision to conclude the Agreement in the form of an Exchange of Letters with the Uruguay. In parallel, a separate proposal on the signature of this Agreement is also submitted.

As a result of the Agreement, the Commission will adopt an implementing Regulation to extend the following tariff rate quotas, pursuant to Article 187(a) of the Single Common Market Organisation (CMO) Regulation (Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013):

- add 76 tonnes in the country allocated (Uruguay) EU tariff rate quota 'boneless meat of bovine animals, fresh or chilled; edible offal of bovine animals, thick skirt and thin skirt, fresh or chilled', tariff item numbers ex 0201 30 00 and ex 0206 10 95, maintaining the present in-quota rate of 20%. The new tariff rate quota shall be 4 076 tonnes;
- add 1 875 tonnes into the EU tariff rate quota 'Meat of bovine animals, frozen ? Edible offal of bovine animals, frozen', tariff item numbers 0202 and 0206.29.91, maintaining the present in-quota rate of 20%. The new tariff rate quota shall be 54 875 tonnes.

The relevant implementation measures are being prepared in parallel to this proposal.

BUDGETARY IMPLICATION: the budgetary impact shall be exclusively limited to the revenue side. The amounts are estimated at EUR 1.3 million per year.

The method used for calculation of revenues: unit value of average similar trade imports for years 2012-2014 multiplied by the new tariff rate quotas volumes multiplied by the in-quota rate duty (20%) minus 25% deduction for collection costs. For subsequent years, the unit value has been considered as constant.

EU/Uruguay Agreement: modification of concessions in the schedule of Croatia in the course of its accession to the European Union

PURPOSE: to conclude an Agreement in the form of an Exchange of Letters between the European Union and the Eastern Republic of Uruguay pursuant to Article XXIV:6 and Article XXVIII of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) 1994 relating to the modification of concessions in the schedule of the Republic of Croatia in the course of its accession to the European Union.

PROPOSED ACT: Council Decision.

ROLE OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT: the Council may adopt the act only if Parliament has given its consent to the act.

BACKGROUND: with the accession of Croatia, the EU enlarged its customs union. Consequently, it was required under World Trade Organisation (WTO) rules (Article XXIV:6 of the GATT 1994) to enter into negotiations with WTO Members having negotiating rights related to the tariff schedule of Croatia in order to eventually agree on a compensatory adjustment.

Such adjustment is due if the adoption of the EUs external tariff regime results in an increase in tariff beyond the level for which the acceding country has bound itself at the WTO.

On 15 July 2013, the Council authorised the Commission to open negotiations under Article XXIV:6 of the GATT 1994.

The Commission has negotiated with the Members of the WTO holding negotiating rights with respect to the withdrawal of specific concessions in relation to the withdrawal of the schedule of Croatia in the course of its accession to the European Union.

Negotiations with Uruguay resulted in a draft Agreement in the form of an Exchange of Letters that was initialled on 18 December 2015 in Nairobi.

Consequently, this proposal asks the Council to adopt a decision to conclude the Agreement in the form of an Exchange of Letters with Uruguay.

In parallel, a separate proposal on the signature of this Agreement is also submitted.

It is now necessary to approve the Agreement on behalf of the EU.

CONTENT: the Council is called upon to adopt a decision to approve, on behalf of the European Union, the Agreement in the form of an Exchange of Letters between the EU and Uruguay pursuant to Article XXIV:6 and Article XXVIII of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) 1994 relating to the modification of concessions in the schedule of the Republic of Croatia in the course of its accession to the EU.

The text of the Agreement is attached to this decision.

Implementing regulation: as a result of the Agreement the Commission will adopt an implementing Regulation to extend the following tariff rate quotas, pursuant to Article 187(a) of the Single Common Market Organisation (CMO) Regulation (Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013):

- add 76 tonnes in the country allocated (Uruguay) EU tariff rate quota 'boneless meat of bovine animals, fresh or chilled; edible offal of bovine animals, thick skirt and thin skirt, fresh or chilled', tariff item numbers ex 0201 30 00 and ex 0206 10 95, maintaining the present in-quota rate of 20%. The new tariff rate quota shall be 4 076 tonnes;
- add 1 875 tonnes into the EU tariff rate quota 'Meat of bovine animals, frozen Edible offal of bovine animals, frozen', tariff item numbers 0202 and 0206.29.91, maintaining the present in-quota rate of 20%. The new tariff rate quota shall be 54 875 tonnes.

BUDGETARY IMPLICATION: this proposal has no impact on expenditure. However, it has an impact on revenue (EUR 1.3 million/year).

EU/Uruguay Agreement: modification of concessions in the schedule of Croatia in the course of its accession to the European Union

The Committee on International Trade adopted the report by Pablo ZALBA BIDEGAIN (EPP, ES) 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 Eastern Republic of Uruguay pursuant to Article XXIV:6 and Article XXVIII of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) 1994 relating to the modification of concessions in the schedule of the Republic of Croatia in the course of its accession to the European Union.

The committee recommended the European Parliament to give its consent to the conclusion of the Agreement.

With the accession of the Republic of Croatia, the EU enlarged its customs union and was therefore required under WTO rules (Article XXIV:6 of the GATT 1994) to enter into negotiations with Uruguay regarding the tariff schedule of Croatia in order to eventually agree on a compensatory adjustment as the EU's external tariff regime results in an increase of tariffs.

Recalling that the negotiations with Uruguay resulted in a draft Agreement initialled on 18 December 2015 in Nairobi, Members stated that the EU will incorporate in its schedule for the customs territory of the EU 28 that of the EU 27 with modifications related to tariff rate quotas on bovine meat.

Against this background, the European Parliament's consent to this Council Decision is a mandatory component in the completion of the ratification process of the Additional Protocol.

EU/Uruguay Agreement: modification of concessions in the schedule of Croatia in the course of its accession to the European Union

The European Parliament adopted by 587 votes to 38, with 37 abstentions 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 Eastern Republic of Uruguay pursuant to Article XXIV:6 and Article XXVIII of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) 1994 relating to the modification of concessions in the schedule of the Republic of Croatia in the course of its accession to the European Union.

The European Parliament gave its consent to the conclusion of the Agreement.

With the accession of Croatia, the EU enlarged its customs union and was therefore required under WTO rules (Article XXIV:6 of the GATT 1994) to enter into negotiations with Uruguay regarding the tariff schedule of Croatia in order to eventually agree on a compensatory adjustment as the EU's external tariff regime results in an increase of tariffs.

Against this backdrop, the European Parliament's consent to this Council Decision is a mandatory component in the completion of the ratification process of the Additional Protocol.

EU/Uruguay Agreement: modification of concessions in the schedule of Croatia in the course of its accession to the European Union

PURPOSE: to conclude an Agreement in the form of an Exchange of Letters between the European Union and the Eastern Republic of Uruguay pursuant to Article XXIV:6 and Article XXVIII of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) 1994 relating to the modification of concessions in the schedule of the Republic of Croatia in the course of its accession to the European Union.

NON-LEGISLATIVE ACT: Council Decision (EU) 2016/1884 on the conclusion of the Agreement in the form of an Exchange of Letters between the European Union and the Eastern Republic of Uruguay pursuant to Article XXIV:6 and Article XXVIII of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) 1994 relating to the modification of concessions in the schedule of the Republic of Croatia in the course of its accession to the European Union.

BACKGROUND: with the accession of Croatia, the European Union enlarged its customs union. Consequently, the European Union was required under World Trade Organisation (WTO) rules (Article XXIV:6 of the GATT 1994) to enter into negotiations with WTO Members having negotiating rights related to the tariff schedule of Croatia in order to eventually agree on a compensatory adjustment.

On 15 July 2013, the Council authorised the Commission to open negotiations with certain other Members of the World Trade Organisation under Article XXIV:6 of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) 1994, in the course of the accession to the European Union of Croatia.

Those negotiations have been concluded and an Agreement in the form of an Exchange of Letters between the EU and Uruguay pursuant to

Article XXIV:6 and Article XXVIII of GATT 1994 relating to the modification of concessions in the schedule of Croatia in the course of its accession to the EU was initialled on 18 December 2015.

The Agreement was signed on behalf of the European Union on 16 June 2016, subject to its conclusion at a later date, in accordance with a Council Decision.

The Agreement should be approved on behalf of the EU.

CONTENT: under this Decision, the Council approved, on behalf of the European Union, the Agreement in the form of an Exchange of Letters between the EU and Uruguay pursuant to Article XXIV:6 and Article XXVIII of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) 1994 relating to the modification of concessions in the schedule of Croatia in the course of its accession to the EU.

The text of the Agreement is attached to this Decision.

As a result of the Agreement, the Commission will adopt an implementing Regulation to extend the following tariff rate quotas, pursuant to the Single Common Market Organisation (CMO) Regulation (Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013):

- add 76 tonnes in the country allocated (Uruguay) EU tariff rate quota 'boneless meat of bovine animals, fresh or chilled; edible offal of bovine animals, thick skirt and thin skirt, fresh or chilled', tariff item numbers ex 0201 30 00 and ex 0206 10 95, maintaining the present in-quota rate of 20%. The new tariff rate quota shall be 4 076 tonnes;
- add 1 875 tonnes into the EU tariff rate quota 'Meat of bovine animals, frozen Edible offal of bovine animals, frozen', tariff item numbers 0202 and 0206.29.91, maintaining the present in-quota rate of 20%. The new tariff rate quota shall be 54 875 tonnes.

ENTRY INTO FORCE: the Decision shall enter into force on 18.10.2016 and the EU and Uruguay shall notify each other of the completion of their internal procedures for the entry into force of the agreement. The agreement shall enter into force 14 days after the date of receipt of the latest notification.