









Procedure file

Basic information			
NLE - Non-legislative enactments Decision		2016/0293(NLE)	
EU/Iceland agreement: additional trade preferences in agricultural products		Procedure completed	
Subject 3.10.03 Marketing and trade of agricultural products and livestock 6.20.03 Bilateral economic and trade agreements and relations			
Geographical area Iceland			

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	INTA International Trade		12/10/2016
		 BORRELLI David	
		Shadow rapporteur	
		 PABRIKS Artis	
		 DANTI Nicola	
		 STARBATTY Joachim	
		 SCHAAKE Marietje	
		 BOVÉ José	
		 FERRAND Edouard	
Council of the European Union	Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
	AGRI Agriculture and Rural Development	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
European Commission	Commission DG Agriculture and Rural Development	Commissioner HOGAN Phil	

Key events			
09/09/2016	Preparatory document	COM(2016)0563	Summary
07/10/2016	Legislative proposal published	12146/2016	Summary

06/04/2017	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
11/07/2017	Vote in committee		
14/07/2017	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading	A8-0256/2017	Summary
12/09/2017	Results of vote in Parliament		
12/09/2017	Decision by Parliament	T8-0320/2017	Summary
09/10/2017	Act adopted by Council after consultation of Parliament		
09/10/2017	End of procedure in Parliament		
24/10/2017	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2016/0293(NLE)
Procedure type	NLE - Non-legislative enactments
Procedure subtype	Consent by Parliament
Legislative instrument	Decision
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/8/07798

Documentation gateway

Document attached to the procedure		COM(2016)0564	09/09/2016	EC	
Preparatory document		COM(2016)0563	09/09/2016	EC	Summary
Legislative proposal		12146/2016	07/10/2016	CSL	Summary
Document attached to the procedure		12147/2016	07/10/2016	CSL	
Committee draft report		PE592.315	24/05/2017	EP	
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading		A8-0256/2017	14/07/2017	EP	Summary
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading		T8-0320/2017	12/09/2017	EP	Summary

Final act

[Decision 2017/1913](#)
[OJ L 274 24.10.2017, p. 0057](#) Summary

EU/Iceland agreement: additional trade preferences in agricultural products

PURPOSE: to conclude an agreement in the form of an exchange of letters between the European Union and Iceland concerning additional trade preferences in agricultural products.

PROPOSED ACT: Council Decision.

ROLE OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT: Council may only adopt the act with Parliament's approval.

BACKGROUND: the EU and Iceland are signatories to the Agreement on the European Economic Area (EEA Agreement), which provides for the free movement of goods, with the exception of agricultural and fisheries products. Article 19 of the EEA Agreement provides that the Parties will review efforts on the further reduction of any type of barriers to trade in the agricultural sector.

The previous agreement in the form of an exchange of letters entered into force on 1 January 2007. It provided for mutual tariff rate quotas and reductions in duty. It also included an undertaking by the Parties to resume bilateral negotiations under Article 19 of the EEA Agreement in two years' time.

The bilateral agricultural trade agreement of 2007 increased the duty-free access of Icelandic agricultural products to the EU market to 51.9 % of trade and increased the duty-free access of EU agricultural products to the Icelandic market to 66.4 % of trade. These figures demonstrate that there was ample room for further trade concessions. Therefore, the latest round of negotiations that took place on 4 July 2012, aimed at: (i) increasing the degree of liberalisation on both sides; (ii) increasing the current tariff rate quotas; and (iii) opening new tariff rate quotas for additional agricultural products. The Agreement was initialled by the Parties on 17 September 2015.

CONTENT: the Commission proposes that the Council adopt a decision approving, on behalf of the EU, the Agreement in the form of an exchange of letters between the European Union and Iceland concerning additional trade preferences in agricultural products. The Agreement provides for further trade preferences for trade in agricultural products, including additional fully liberalised tariff lines. As a result almost 90 % of EU agricultural products will enter Iceland duty-free. For more sensitive products such as meat, dairy, fruit, vegetable and ornamental plants, additional tariff quotas or tariff reductions have been agreed upon.

BUDGETARY IMPLICATIONS: the Agreement will have no impact on the expenditure side of the EU budget. The new concessions granted on imports from Iceland will likely result in a reduction of own resources through a lower collection of customs duties.

EU/Iceland agreement: additional trade preferences in agricultural products

PURPOSE: to conclude the Agreement in the form of an exchange of letters between the European Union and Iceland concerning additional trade preferences in agricultural products.

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: the EU and Iceland are signatories to the Agreement on the European Economic Area (EEA Agreement). This Agreement provides that the contracting Parties shall undertake to continue their efforts to achieve progressive liberalisation of agricultural trade between them.

The Agreement in the form of an exchange of letters between the European Union and Iceland concerning additional trade preferences in agricultural products was signed subject to its conclusion. The Agreement should now be approved.

CONTENT: the draft Council decision seeks the approval, on behalf of the European Union, of the Agreement in the form of an exchange of letters between the European Union and Iceland concerning additional trade preferences in agricultural products.

The Agreement was initialled by the Parties on 17 September 2015 and provided for further trade preferences for trade in agricultural products, including additional fully liberalised tariff lines.

As a result almost 90 % of EU agricultural products will enter Iceland duty-free. For more sensitive products such as meat, dairy, fruit, vegetable and ornamental plants, additional tariff quotas or tariff reductions have been agreed upon.

EU/Iceland agreement: additional trade preferences in agricultural products

The Committee on International Trade adopted the report by David BORELLI (EFDD, IT) on the draft Council decision on the conclusion of the Agreement in the form of an exchange of letters between the European Union and Iceland concerning additional trade preferences for agricultural products.

The committee recommended that Parliament give its consent to the conclusion of the agreement.

As mentioned in the explanatory memorandum accompanying the report, the previous EU-Iceland agreement on liberalising agricultural trade entered into force on 1 January 2007. It set the duty-free access of Icelandic agricultural products to the EU market to 51.9 % of trade and the duty-free access of EU agricultural products to the Icelandic market to 66.4 % of trade.

The latest round of negotiations, which began on 4 July 2012, aimed at increasing the degree of liberalisation on both sides, extending the current tariff rate quotas and opening new tariff rate quotas for additional agricultural products.

The Agreement initialled on 17 September 2015 included additional tariff quotas or tariff reductions for more sensitive products such as meat, dairy products, fruit, vegetables and ornamental plants.

As a result of the negotiations almost 90 % of EU agricultural products will have duty-free access to the Icelandic market. Overall, almost all trade on processed agricultural products will be duty free, with some exceptions, notably of fermented milk products.

The Rapporteur is of the view that the negotiations have led to a balanced outcome, in particular, taking the simultaneously negotiated agreement on GI protection into account.

EU/Iceland agreement: additional trade preferences in agricultural products

The European Parliament adopted by 637 votes to 8, with 46 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 Iceland concerning additional trade preferences in agricultural products.

Following the recommendation of its Committee on International Trade, Parliament gave its consent to the conclusion of the agreement.

The Agreement was initialled by the Parties on 17 September 2015 and provided for further trade preferences for trade in agricultural products, including additional fully liberalised tariff lines.

EU/Iceland agreement: additional trade preferences in agricultural products

PURPOSE: to conclude the Agreement in the form of an exchange of letters between the European Union and Iceland concerning additional trade preferences in agricultural products.

NON-LEGISLATIVE ACT: Council Decision (EU) 2017/1913 on the conclusion of the Agreement in the form of an Exchange of Letters between the European Union and Iceland concerning additional trade preferences in agricultural products.

CONTENT: by this Decision, the Agreement in the form of an Exchange of Letters between the European Union and Iceland concerning additional trade preferences in agricultural products is hereby approved on behalf of the Union.

As a reminder, the EU and Iceland are Parties to the Agreement on the European Economic Area (EEA Agreement) which provides for free movement of goods, with the exception of agricultural and fisheries products. Article 19 stipulates that every two years the Parties review the conditions of trade in agricultural products and decide on the further reduction of any type of barriers.

The new Agreement was initialled by the Parties on 17 September 2015 and provided for further trade preferences for trade in agricultural products, including additional fully liberalised tariff lines.

As a result almost 90 % of EU agricultural products will enter Iceland duty-free.

For more sensitive products such as meat, dairy, fruit, vegetable and ornamental plants, additional tariff quotas or tariff reductions have been agreed upon.

ENTRY INTO FORCE: 9.10.2017.