





Procedure file

Basic information	
<p>COD - Ordinary legislative procedure (ex-codecision procedure) Regulation</p> <p>2020/0051(COD)</p>	Procedure completed
<p>Introducing exceptional trade measures for countries and territories participating in or linked to the European Union's Stabilisation and Association process</p> <p>See also Regulation 2011/1336 2010/0036(COD)</p> <p>Subject 6.20.03 Bilateral economic and trade agreements and relations 6.40.03 Relations with South-East Europe and the Balkans 6.40.15 European neighbourhood policy</p> <p>Legislative priorities Joint Declaration 2021</p>	

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	 International Trade	 MAUREL Emmanuel	15/04/2020
Council of the European Union European Commission	Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
	 Foreign Affairs	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
	Commission DG	Commissioner	
	Trade	DOMBROVSKIS Valdis	

Key events			
03/04/2020	Legislative proposal published	COM(2020)0135	Summary
16/04/2020	Committee referral announced in Parliament, 1st reading		
24/09/2020	Vote in committee, 1st reading		
24/09/2020	Committee decision to open interinstitutional negotiations with report adopted in committee		
02/10/2020	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading	A9-0175/2020	Summary
05/10/2020	Committee decision to enter into interinstitutional negotiations announced in plenary (Rule 71)		

07/10/2020	Committee decision to enter into interinstitutional negotiations confirmed by plenary (Rule 71)		
11/11/2020	Results of vote in Parliament		
11/11/2020	Decision by Parliament, 1st reading	T9-0290/2020	Summary
16/12/2020	Act adopted by Council after Parliament's 1st reading		
16/12/2020	Final act signed		
17/12/2020	End of procedure in Parliament		
21/12/2020	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2020/0051(COD)
Procedure type	COD - Ordinary legislative procedure (ex-codecision procedure)
Procedure subtype	Legislation
Legislative instrument	Regulation
	See also Regulation 2011/1336 2010/0036(COD)
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/9/02770

Documentation gateway

Legislative proposal	COM(2020)0135	03/04/2020	EC	Summary
Committee draft report	PE652.538	10/07/2020	EP	
Amendments tabled in committee	PE657.254	10/09/2020	EP	
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading	A9-0175/2020	02/10/2020	EP	Summary
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading	T9-0290/2020	11/11/2020	EP	Summary
Commission response to text adopted in plenary	SP(2020)649	16/12/2020	EC	
Draft final act	00042/2020/LEX	16/12/2020	CSL	

Final act

[Regulation 2020/2172](#)
[OJ L 432 21.12.2020, p. 0007](#)

Final legislative act with provisions for delegated acts

PURPOSE: to extend the application of Regulation (EC) No 1215/2009 introducing exceptional trade measures for countries and territories linked to the European Union's Stabilisation and Association process for the Western Balkans.

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

ROLE OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT: the European Parliament decides in accordance with the ordinary legislative procedure on an equal footing with the Council.

BACKGROUND: at its meeting in Lisbon on 23 and 24 March 2000, the European Council stated that Stabilisation and Association Agreements with the Western Balkan entities should be preceded by asymmetrical trade liberalisation.

By introducing exceptional trade measures in favour of the countries and territories participating in the Stabilisation and Association Process, [Council Regulation \(EC\) No 1215/2009](#), which applies until 31 December 2020, has allowed such liberalisation.

Stabilisation and Association Agreements have now been concluded with all six relevant entities of the Western Balkans, namely Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Northern Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia.

Even though most of the trade preferences initially granted to the Western Balkans through the autonomous trade regime have now been integrated in their respective Stabilisation and Association Agreement with the Union, the limited preferences granted through this Regulation still provide a valuable support to the regional economy. These preferences allow for the suspension of the specific duties normally applied to fruits and vegetables and for the inclusion of a global wine quota available after exhaustion of the countries respective national wine quotas.

The ATMs system contributed to the expansion of the total trade between the EU and the Western Balkans which exceeded EUR 54 billion in 2018. The EU is the leading trade partner accounting for over 72% of the region's total trade.

CONTENT: the Commission proposes to extend the period of application of Regulation (EC) No 1215/2009 until 31 December 2025.

The proposed measures have been in place for almost 20 years, but are now considerably reduced, as most of the preferences have been gradually integrated into the various Stabilisation and Association Agreements concluded between the EU and the beneficiaries.

While the estimated impact is considered minimal in terms of loss of customs duties for the EU - around EUR 23.5 million for all six beneficiaries, based on the import value in 2018 - the extension of the measures is considered the best guarantee of the EU's commitment to the trade integration of the Western Balkans. It would also help to ensure stable market access conditions for economic operators both in the region and in the EU.

The unilateral preferences to Kosovo were included in the EU-Kosovo Stabilisation and Association Agreement, which entered into force on 1 April 2016. The autonomous trade preferences do no longer concern any fishery or beef trade concessions. It is therefore proposed to remove any references to these two categories of products.

This proposal is consistent with the political guidelines of the new Commission, which has reaffirmed the European perspective of the Western Balkans and its important role in the continued reform process across the region. The European Union aims to promote peace, stability and economic development in the region and open up the prospect of EU integration.

Budgetary implications

The proposed Regulation does not incur additional costs in the EU budget. For the years 2020 to 2025 there will be no additional tariff revenue foregone in respect of products produced by the current beneficiaries. Hypothetical revenue that could have been collected from additional new imports is not considered as a loss of tariff revenue.

Introducing exceptional trade measures for countries and territories participating in or linked to the European Union's Stabilisation and Association process

The Committee on International Trade adopted the report by Emmanuel MAUREL (GUE/NGL, FR) on the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Council Regulation (EC) No 1215/2009 introducing exceptional trade measures for countries and territories participating in or linked to the European Unions Stabilisation and Association process.

As a reminder, the proposal aims at extending until 31 December 2025 the period of application of Regulation (EC) No 1215/2009 introducing exceptional trade measures for countries and territories linked to the Stabilisation and Association process implemented by the European Union in respect of the Western Balkans.

The committee recommended that the European Parliaments position adopted at first reading under the ordinary legislative procedure should amend the Commission proposal as follows.

Members considered that the EU shall continue to promote access to the EU market for the countries concerned. They considered that extending the period of application of Regulation (EC) No 1215/2009 is a suitable guarantee to ensure the Union's enhanced and proactive commitment to the trade integration of the Western Balkans. They stressed that the current system of autonomous trade measures remains a valuable support for the economies of the Balkan partners.

Entitlement to benefit from the preferential arrangements introduced by the Regulation shall be conditional on the willingness of the beneficiary entities in the Western Balkans to engage in effective economic reforms and regional cooperation with other countries concerned by the EU Stabilisation and Association Process, in particular through the establishment of free trade areas in accordance with Article XXIV of the GATT 1994 and other relevant WTO provisions.

Introducing exceptional trade measures for countries and territories participating in or linked to the European Union's Stabilisation and Association process

The European Parliament adopted by 604 votes to 43, with 49 abstentions, a legislative resolution on the proposal for a regulation of the

European Parliament and of the Council amending Council Regulation

(EC) No 1215/2009 introducing exceptional trade measures for countries and territories participating in or linked to the European Unions Stabilisation and Association process.

As a reminder, the proposal aims at extending until 31 December 2025 the period of application of Regulation (EC) No 1215/2009 introducing exceptional trade measures for countries and territories linked to the Stabilisation and Association process implemented by the European Union in respect of the Western Balkans.

Parliament adopted its position at first reading under the ordinary legislative procedure, amending the Commission proposal as follows.

Members considered that extending the period of application of Regulation (EC) No 1215/2009 is a suitable guarantee to ensure the Union's enhanced and proactive commitment to the trade integration of the Western Balkans. They stressed that the current system of autonomous trade measures remains a valuable support for the economies of the Balkan partners.

The amended text clarifies that entitlement to benefit from the preferential arrangements introduced by the Regulation should be conditional on the willingness of the beneficiary entities in the Western Balkans to engage in effective economic reforms and regional cooperation with other countries concerned by the EU Stabilisation and Association Process, in particular through the establishment of free trade areas in accordance with Article XXIV of the GATT 1994 and other relevant WTO provisions.