


Procedure file

Basic information		
CNS - Consultation procedure Decision	1995/0115(CNS)	Procedure completed
1995 International Grains Agreement: Grains Trade Convention and Food Aid Convention		
Subject 3.10.06.03 Cereals, rice 6.50 Emergency, food, humanitarian aid, aid to refugees, Emergency Aid Reserve		

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	RELA External Economic Relations	V KREISSL-DÖRFLER Wolfgang	21/06/1995
Council of the European Union	Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
	AGRI Agriculture and Rural Development		
	DEVE Development and Cooperation		

Key events			
18/05/1995	Legislative proposal published	COM(1995)0183	Summary
10/07/1995	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
06/09/1995	Vote in committee		Summary
06/09/1995	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading	A4-0200/1995	
10/10/1995	Debate in Parliament		Summary
10/10/1995	Decision by Parliament	T4-0446/1995	Summary
18/12/1995	Act adopted by Council after consultation of Parliament		
18/12/1995	End of procedure in Parliament		
27/01/1996	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information	

Procedure reference	1995/0115(CNS)
Procedure type	CNS - Consultation procedure
Procedure subtype	International agreement
Legislative instrument	Decision
Legal basis	EC before Amsterdam E 228-p2/3-a1; EC before Amsterdam E 113; EC before Amsterdam E 130Y
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	RELA/4/06895

Documentation gateway

Legislative proposal		COM(1995)0183 OJ C 191 25.07.1995, p. 0004	18/05/1995	EC	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading		A4-0200/1995 OJ C 269 16.10.1995, p. 0011	06/09/1995	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading		T4-0446/1995 OJ C 287 30.10.1995, p. 0025-0041	10/10/1995	EP	Summary

Additional information

European Commission	EUR-Lex
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Final act

Decision 1996/88 OJ L 021 27.01.1996, p. 0047 Summary
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1995 International Grains Agreement: Grains Trade Convention and Food Aid Convention

This proposal for a decision related to the Community's approval of the International Grains Agreement of 1995 incorporating: - the Grains Trade Convention of 1995, which aimed to promote international cooperation and the expansion of international trade in grains in order to secure the freest possible flow of this trade and eliminate any trade barriers. It also aimed to maintain the stability of international grain markets; - the Food Aid Convention of 1995, which aimed to secure the achievement of the World Food Conference target of supplying 10 million tonnes of food aid annually to developing countries in the form of grain suitable for human consumption. Each of these two Conventions (or either of them as agreed) would be submitted for signature and ratification, acceptance or approval by the governments (including the Community) listed in the annex to the Grains Trade Convention and the governments covered by the Food Aid Convention. The participation of the three new Member States of the Community in the Grains Trade Convention was referred to but not demanded. As a result, the Community included in its decision a declaration to the effect that these countries would no longer be individual members of this Convention but would be covered by the Community's membership thereof. Accordingly, the Community undertook to perform the undertakings laid down in the Convention for these three states. The International Agreement, to be completed on 30 June 1995, differed from the 1986 Agreement (also consisting of the Wheat Trade Convention of 1986 and the Food Aid Convention of 1986) in three ways: - the Wheat Convention was extended to all grains and became the Grains Trade Convention; - the basis for calculating the votes and, hence, the contributions to the administrative budget was reviewed and would be adjusted periodically on the basis of trade patterns; - the Rules of Procedure were updated. The new International Grains Agreement would be open for the signature of governments wishing to become members of the Agreement at the United Nations headquarters (New York) between 1 May and 30 June 1995. A Conference of Governments would take place just after this date to determine whether or not all the conditions had been met to permit the entry into force of the Agreement on 1 July 1995. The Community should deposit its instrument of approval no later than 30 June 1995. The Member States were also called upon to become contracting parties to the Food Aid Convention due to the food aid measures envisaged. ?

1995 International Grains Agreement: Grains Trade Convention and Food Aid Convention

The Committee adopted the report by Mr Wolfgang KREISSL-D·RFLER (Greens, D) on two conventions, namely the Grains Trade Convention and the Food Aid Convention, which comprised the International Grains Agreement 1995. The aims of the new Grains Trade Convention, which was negotiated at an intergovernmental conference in December 1994, are to coordinate the commercial interests of exporting countries and to take account of the food requirements of importing countries. The agreement contains arbitration clauses. Under the terms of the Food

Aid Convention, members undertake to provide at least 10 million tonnes of food annually to developing countries in the form of grains suitable for human consumption, this to be provided free of charge or under preferential conditions. Under Article III, the European Union and its Member States undertake to provide 1.755 million tonnes of food aid a year. ?

1995 International Grains Agreement: Grains Trade Convention and Food Aid Convention

The rapporteur stated that by implementing a food aid policy the Union had often compromised the renewal of autonomous markets. Therefore, the populations that received food aid should be involved in the planning of this aid, and the Union should give preference to purchases from regional markets, without however changing the food habits of the populations or creating new dependencies. Finally, the rapporteur considered that it was important to establish control mechanisms, particularly in relation to food surpluses. Commissioner FISCHLER pointed out that in terms of food aid it was important for the Union to make every effort to ensure the security of supply. The Union and its Member States were committed to providing 1.755 million tonnes of food aid every year. In his opinion, the criticism that the Union's policy of subsidies put pressure on the markets of the countries receiving food aid was unjustified.

1995 International Grains Agreement: Grains Trade Convention and Food Aid Convention

While criticizing the EU's programme of subsidies, which it claimed put pressure on the markets of those States benefitting from food aid, Parliament adopted the report by Mr Wolfgang KREISSL-DÖRFLER (Greens, D) on the Grains Trade Convention and on the Food Aid Convention, which constituted the International Grains Agreement 1995. The proposal was approved without amendment. ?

1995 International Grains Agreement: Grains Trade Convention and Food Aid Convention

-OBJECTIVE : Approval by the Community of the International Grains Agreement 1995. -COMMUNITY MEASURE : Council Decision 96/88/EC concerning the approval by the European Community of the Grains Trade Convention and the Food Aid Convention, constituting the International Grains Agreement 1995. -SUBSTANCE : The Agreement comprises two conventions: .the Grains Trade Convention 1995, which seeks to further international cooperation and to promote the expansion of the international trade in grains. .the Food Aid Convention 1995, which seeks to secure the achievement of the World Food Conference target of at least 10 million tonnes of food aid annually to developing countries in the form of grains suitable for human consumption. The International Agreement differs from the 1986 Agreement (also consisting of the Wheat Trade Convention 1986, and the Food Aid Convention 1986, in three ways: - the Wheat Convention is extended to all grains and becomes the Grains Trade Convention; - the basis for calculating the votes and, hence, the contributions to the administrative budget is reviewed and will be adjusted periodically on the basis of current grain trade patterns; - The Rules of Procedure are updated. -RATIFICATION PROCEDURE: Each of these two conventions (or either of them as agreed) is submitted for signature and ratification, acceptance or approval, by the governments concerned (including the Community). The participation of the three new Community Member States is referred to but not demanded. It is for this reason that the Community provides in its decision for a declaration to the effect that these countries will no longer be individual members of this Convention but will be covered by the Community's membership thereof. Accordingly, the Community undertakes to perform the undertakings laid down in the Convention for these three states. Originally, the International Grains Agreement was open for signature and deposit of instruments of ratification, acceptance or approval at the UN headquarters (New York) between 1 May and 30 June 1995. The Conference of Governments, meeting in London on 6 July 1995, extended this deadline to 30 June 1996. ?