



Plenary sitting

A9-0306/2021

5.11.2021

RECOMMENDATION

on the draft Council decision on the conclusion, on behalf of the Union, of the Agreement in the form of an Exchange of Letters between the European Union and the Commonwealth of Australia pursuant to Article XXVIII of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) 1994 relating to the modification of concessions on all the tariff-rate quotas included in the EU Schedule CLXXV as a consequence of the United Kingdom's withdrawal from the European Union

(06102/2021 – C9-0376/2021 – 2021/0029(NLE))

Committee on International Trade

Rapporteur: Daniel Caspary

Symbols for procedures

- * Consultation procedure
- *** Consent procedure
- ***I Ordinary legislative procedure (first reading)
- ***II Ordinary legislative procedure (second reading)
- ***III Ordinary legislative procedure (third reading)

(The type of procedure depends on the legal basis proposed by the draft act.)

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DRAFT EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION

on the draft Council decision on the conclusion, on behalf of the Union, of the Agreement in the form of an Exchange of Letters between the European Union and the Commonwealth of Australia pursuant to Article XXVIII of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) 1994 relating to the modification of concessions on all the tariff-rate quotas included in the EU Schedule CLXXV as a consequence of the United Kingdom's withdrawal from the European Union (06102/2021 – C9-0376/2021 – 2021/0029(NLE))

(Consent)

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the draft Council decision (06102/2021),
 - having regard to the draft Agreement in the form of an exchange of letters between the European Union and the Commonwealth of Australia pursuant to Article XXVIII of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) 1994 relating to the modification of concessions on all the tariff-rate quotas included in the EU Schedule CLXXV as a consequence of the United Kingdom's withdrawal from the European Union (06103/2021),
 - having regard to the request for consent submitted by the Council in accordance with Article 207(4), first subparagraph, and Article 218(6), second subparagraph, point (a)(v) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (C9-0376/2021)
 - having regard to Rule 105(1) and (4), and Rule 114(7) of its Rules of Procedure,
 - having regard to the letter from the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development,
 - having regard to the recommendation of the Committee on International Trade (A9-0306/2021),
1. Gives its consent to the conclusion of the agreement;
 2. Instructs its President to forward its position to the Council, the Commission and the governments and parliaments of the Member States and of the Commonwealth of Australia.

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

In October 2018, the EU formally launched the negotiations process (under Article XXVIII of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) 1994) with a number of WTO Members in Geneva. The underlying principle of the negotiations is a “joint approach” developed between the EU and the UK back in 2017 on how to “apportion” the quantitative commitments contained in the EU28 WTO schedule for the 143 EU agricultural, fish and industrial WTO tariff rate quotas (TRQs). The basis of this approach is that the existing volume of each TRQ would be fully maintained in the future, but split across two separate customs territories: the EU27 and the UK.

The principle of the applied methodology is based on the trade flows into the EU27 and the UK during a representative reference period (of 3 years from 2013 to 2015) for all WTO TRQs.

The agreed methodology of the apportionment is described in detail in Regulation (EU) 2019/216 of the European Parliament and of the Council. More specifically, Article 2b) of this Regulation empowers the Commission to amend the apportionment shares taking into account pertinent information that it may receive either in the context of negotiations under Article XXVIII of GATT 1994 or from other sources with an interest in a specific tariff rate quota.

On 15 June 2018, the Council authorised the Commission to launch negotiations under Article XXVIII GATT with the relevant WTO Members, including Australia, with a view to apportioning the Union's WTO concessions on TRQs.

Australia has negotiating rights for 14 TRQs and consultation rights for 6 TRQs.

Negotiations with Australia resulted in an Agreement that was initialled on 18 December 2020 in Brussels.

In accordance with Article 218(6) TFEU, the consent of the European Parliament is needed in order for the Council to adopt a decision concluding the Agreement.

In the light of the above, the Rapporteur recommends that the Parliament give its consent to the conclusion of the Agreement.

**LETTER FROM THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND RURAL
DEVELOPMENT**

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT
THE CHAIR

Mr Bernd Lange
Chair of the Committee on International Trade
ASP 12G301

Ref.: IPOL(2021)012538

Dear Chair,

I refer to the proposal for a Council decision on the conclusion of an agreement between the EU and Australia [COM(2021)52] on the modification of WTO concessions on tariff-rate quotas following Brexit.

After consideration of additional information provided by the Commission, the majority of AGRI coordinators did not object to the conclusion of this agreement.

I am pleased to convey their opinion to you pursuant to Rule 56.

Yours sincerely,



Norbert Lins

Copy: Mr Martin Hlaváček, AGRI Standing Rapporteur for Brexit related issues

PROCEDURE – COMMITTEE RESPONSIBLE

Title	Agreement in the form of an exchange of letters between the Union and Australia relating to the modification of concessions on all the tariff-rate quotas included in the EU Schedule CLXXV as a consequence of the United Kingdom's withdrawal from the European Union		
References	06102/2021 – C9-0376/2021 – 2021/0029(NLE)		
Date of consultation / request for consent	4.10.2021		
Committee responsible Date announced in plenary	INTA 7.10.2021		
Committees asked for opinions Date announced in plenary	ITRE 7.10.2021	AGRI 7.10.2021	PECH 7.10.2021
Not delivering opinions Date of decision	ITRE 25.2.2021	AGRI 11.5.2021	PECH 22.3.2021
Rapporteurs Date appointed	Daniel Caspary 11.2.2021		
Date adopted	26.10.2021		
Result of final vote	+: 36 –: 4 0: 2		
Members present for the final vote	Barry Andrews, Anna-Michelle Asimakopoulou, Tiziana Beghin, Geert Bourgeois, Saskia Bricmont, Jordi Cañas, Daniel Caspary, Miroslav Číž, Arnaud Danjean, Paolo De Castro, Emmanouil Fragkos, Raphaël Glucksmann, Roman Haider, Christophe Hansen, Danuta Maria Hübner, Herve Juvin, Karin Karlsbro, Maximilian Krah, Danilo Oscar Lancini, Bernd Lange, Margarida Marques, Gabriel Mato, Sara Matthieu, Emmanuel Maurel, Carles Puigdemont i Casamajó, Samira Rafaela, Inma Rodríguez-Piñero, Massimiliano Salini, Liesje Schreinemacher, Sven Simon, Dominik Tarczyński, Mihai Tudose, Kathleen Van Brempt, Marie-Pierre Vedrenne, Jörgen Warborn, Iuliu Winkler, Jan Zahradil, Juan Ignacio Zoido Álvarez		
Substitutes present for the final vote	Marek Belka, Luke Ming Flanagan, Enikő Győri, Manuela Ripa		
Date tabled	5.11.2021		

FINAL VOTE BY ROLL CALL IN COMMITTEE RESPONSIBLE

36	+
ECR	Geert Bourgeois, Emmanouil Fragkos, Dominik Tarczyński, Jan Zahradil
ID	Roman Haider, Maximilian Krah
NI	Tiziana Beghin, Enikő Győri, Carles Puigdemont i Casamajó
PPE	Anna-Michelle Asimakopoulou, Daniel Caspary, Christophe Hansen, Danuta Maria Hübner, Gabriel Mato, Massimiliano Salini, Sven Simon, Jörgen Warborn, Iuliu Winkler, Juan Ignacio Zoido Álvarez
Renew	Barry Andrews, Jordi Cañas, Karin Karlsbro, Samira Rafaela, Liesje Schreinemacher
S&D	Marek Belka, Miroslav Číž, Paolo De Castro, Bernd Lange, Margarida Marques, Inma Rodríguez-Piñero, Mihai Tudose, Kathleen Van Brempt
The Left	Luke Ming Flanagan
Verts/ALE	Saskia Bricmont, Sara Matthieu, Manuela Ripa

4	-
ID	Herve Juvin, Danilo Oscar Lancini
PPE	Arnaud Danjean
The Left	Emmanuel Maurel

2	0
Renew	Marie-Pierre Vedrenne
S&D	Raphaël Glucksmann

Key to symbols:

+ : in favour

- : against

0 : abstention