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*Plenary sitting*

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1.3.2013

B7-0000/2013

## **MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION**

further to Question for Oral Answer B7-0000/2013

pursuant to Rule 115(5) of the Rules of Procedure

on EU-Norway trade relations  
(2013/0000(RSP))

**Vital Moreira, Christofer Fjellner**  
on behalf of the Committee on International Trade

## **B7-0000**

### **European Parliament resolution on text (2013/0000(RSP))**

*The European Parliament,*

- having regard to Article 19 of the Agreement on the European Economic Area (EEA Agreement),
  - having regard to the Agreement in the form of an Exchange of Letters between the European Union and the Kingdom of Norway concerning additional trade preferences in agricultural products reached on the basis of Article 19 of the Agreement on the European Economic Area (the Bilateral Agreement)<sup>1</sup>,
  - having regard to the conclusions of the 38th meeting of the EEA Council of 26 November 2012;
  - having regard to the question to the Commission (B7-0000/2013),
  - having regard to Rule 115(5) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas according to Article 19 of the EEA Agreement 'The Contracting Parties undertake to continue their efforts with a view to achieving progressive liberalization of agricultural trade';
- B. whereas the Bilateral Agreement in force since January 2012 has renewed the preferential, reciprocal and mutually beneficial legal framework on trade preferences in agricultural products, including meat and dairy products,
- C. whereas by such an agreement the European Union and the Kingdom of Norway have extended mutual liberalization of trade in agricultural products, by granting duty free access, establishing tariff quotas and reducing import duties for a wide range of agricultural products;
- D. whereas from 1 January 2013, European exporters of certain cheeses, lamb and beef meat face ad valorem duties of respectively 277%, 429% and 344% in the Norwegian market; whereas this measure was preceded by an imposition of a new 72% import duty on hydrangea (hortensia) flowers;
- E. Whereas these measures, although permitted in the Norwegian WTO schedule, go against the letter and the spirit of the Bilateral Agreement, in particular Article 10, stating that 'The Parties will take steps to ensure that the benefits which they grant each other will not be jeopardised by other restrictive import measures';

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<sup>1</sup> OJ L 327, 9.12.2011 and Council Decision 2011/818 of 08.11.2011

- F. whereas economic growth, employment and inflation indicators show no sign of negative impact of the global economic or financial crisis on the Norwegian economy;
1. Deplores the recent measures imposed by the Norwegian government, which it regards to be protectionist and prohibitive to trade, clearly breaching the letter and the spirit of the bilateral Agreement;
  2. Stresses that these measures were proposed by the Norwegian government without any prior consultation with the EU counterparts as would have been appropriate in the context of the existing strong bilateral relations;
  3. Questions the economic logic behind these measures, which could have trade reducing effects, harming all involved parties and especially Norwegian consumers, and in the long run also Norwegian farmers;
  4. Urges the Norwegian government and Parliament to withdraw the measures;
  5. Calls on the Norwegian government and the European Commission to take note of the Iceland's recent and ambitious steps to liberalise their agricultural trade with the Union; urges the Norwegian government to follow their example;
  6. Calls on the Norwegian government to accept a review of Protocol 3 to the EEA Agreement, concerning trade in processed agricultural products, in order to assess whether the duties on above products are deemed fair and justified;
  7. Calls on the European Commission to immediately enter into negotiations with the Norwegian authorities in order to work for a mutually satisfactory solution on imports/exports of agricultural products;
  8. Calls on the European Commission to take into consideration the possibility of proposing further action in case of lack of cooperation with the aim of the withdrawal of the measures;
  9. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Commission, the Council, the Norwegian government and Parliament and the EEA institutions.