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A7-0415/2013

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REPORT

on the proposal for a Council regulation opening and providing for the administration of autonomous tariff quotas of the Union on imports of certain fishery products into the Canary Islands from 2014 to 2020
(COM(2013)0552 – C7-0262/2013 – 2013/0266(CNS))

Committee on Fisheries

Rapporteur: Gabriel Mato Adrover

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.)

Amendments to a draft act

Amendments by Parliament set out in two columns

Deletions are indicated in ***bold italics*** in the left-hand column. Replacements are indicated in ***bold italics*** in both columns. New text is indicated in ***bold italics*** in the right-hand column.

The first and second lines of the header of each amendment identify the relevant part of the draft act under consideration. If an amendment pertains to an existing act that the draft act is seeking to amend, the amendment heading includes a third line identifying the existing act and a fourth line identifying the provision in that act that Parliament wishes to amend.

Amendments by Parliament in the form of a consolidated text

New text is highlighted in ***bold italics***. Deletions are indicated using either the ■ symbol or strikeout. Replacements are indicated by highlighting the new text in ***bold italics*** and by deleting or striking out the text that has been replaced.

By way of exception, purely technical changes made by the drafting departments in preparing the final text are not highlighted.

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DRAFT EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION

on the proposal for a Council regulation opening and providing for the administration of autonomous tariff quotas of the Union on imports of certain fishery products into the Canary Islands from 2014 to 2020

(COM(2013)0552 – C7-0262/2013 – 2013/0266(CNS))

(Special legislative procedure – consultation)

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the Commission proposal to the Council (COM(2013)0552),
 - having regard to Article 349 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, pursuant to which the Council consulted Parliament (C7-0262/2013),
 - having regard to Rule 55 of its Rules of Procedure,
 - having regard to the report of the Committee on Fisheries (A7-0415/2013),
1. Approves the Commission proposal;
 2. Calls on the Council to notify Parliament if it intends to depart from the text approved by Parliament;
 3. Asks the Council to consult Parliament again if it intends to substantially amend the text approved by Parliament;
 4. Instructs its President to forward its position to the Council, the Commission and the national parliaments.

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

The Canary Islands are one of the outermost regions. The Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union recognises that the structural social and economic situation of these regions, which is characterised by their remoteness, insularity, small size, difficult topography and climate and economic dependence on a few products, severely restrains their development. Consequently, without undermining the integrity and coherence of the Union legal order, specific measures may be adopted aimed at laying down the conditions of application of the Treaties to those regions, including the internal market and common policies.

The exceptional geographical situation of the Canary Islands in relation to the sources of supply of certain fishery products which are essential for domestic consumption entails additional costs for this sector. One of the measures designed to offset this natural handicap in keeping with the Treaty is the temporary suspension of customs duties on imports of certain agri-food products from third countries, within Community tariff quotas set at an appropriate level.

Since 1991, the European Union has suspended partially or in full the Common Custom Tariff duties on imports of certain fishery products into the Canary Islands. Council Regulation (EC) No 645/2008¹ opened and provided for the administration of two duty-free tariff quotas for imports of certain fishery products into the Canary Islands for the period 1 January 2007 to 31 December 2013. Unless these measures are extended, they will thus cease to apply as from 1 January 2014.

The Spanish authorities have submitted reports on the application of these two quotas. The information provided shows that, on average, one of the tariff quotas was almost fully utilised over the reference period whilst the second was not exhausted. The under-utilisation of the second quota could be linked to temporary and exogenous factors, such as the difficult economic conditions in the Canary Islands following the economic and financial crisis.

The opening of similar quotas would be justified because they would cover the needs of the Canary Islands' domestic market, while ensuring that flows of reduced-duty imports into the Union remain predictable and clearly identifiable.

The proposed duty-free tariff quotas are to be seen, in terms of support for the Canary Islands' fish sector, as complementing other measures, in particular the scheme to compensate for the additional costs incurred in the marketing of certain fishery products from the outermost regions².

In the light of the consultation of interested parties and the formal request submitted by the Spanish authorities, it would be appropriate to extend the existing duty-free tariff quotas on imports of certain fishery products into the Canary Islands for the period 2014-2020.

¹ Council Regulation (EC) No 645/2008 of 25 March 2008, OJ L 180, 9.7.2008, p. 1.

² Council Regulation (EC) No 791/2007 of 21 May 2007, OJ L 176, 6.7.2007, p. 1.

PROCEDURE

Title	Autonomous tariff quotas of the Union on imports of certain fishery products into the Canary Islands from 2014 to 2020	
References	COM(2013)0552 – C7-0262/2013 – 2013/0266(CNS)	
Date of consulting Parliament	5.9.2013	
Committee responsible Date announced in plenary	PECH 12.9.2013	
Committee(s) asked for opinion(s) Date announced in plenary	IMCO 12.9.2013	REGI 12.9.2013
Not delivering opinions Date of decision	IMCO 25.9.2013	REGI 24.9.2013
Rapporteur(s) Date appointed	Gabriel Mato Adrover 12.9.2013	
Discussed in committee	17.10.2013	4.11.2013
Date adopted	27.11.2013	
Result of final vote	+: 21 -: 1 0: 0	
Members present for the final vote	John Stuart Agnew, Carmen Fraga Estévez, Pat the Cope Gallagher, Dolores García-Hierro Caraballo, Ian Hudghton, Werner Kuhn, Isabella Lövin, Gabriel Mato Adrover, Maria do Céu Patrão Neves, Crescenzo Rivellini, Ulrike Rodust, Raül Romeva i Rueda, Struan Stevenson, Isabelle Thomas, Nils Torvalds, Jarosław Leszek Wałęsa	
Substitute(s) present for the final vote	Luis Manuel Capoulas Santos, Jean Louis Cottigny, Jim Higgins, Jens Nilsson	
Substitute(s) under Rule 187(2) present for the final vote	María Auxiliadora Correa Zamora, Salvador Garriga Polledo, Francisco José Millán Mon, Younous Omarjee, Ivo Vajgl, Luis Yáñez-Barnuevo García	
Date tabled	29.11.2013	