**REPORT**


Committee on International Trade

Rapporteur: Bernd Lange
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.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CONTENTS</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DRAFT EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EXPLANATORY STATEMENT</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PROCEDURE – COMMITTEE RESPONSIBLE</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FINAL VOTE BY ROLL CALL IN COMMITTEE RESPONSIBLE</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
DRAFT EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION

on the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the elimination of customs duties on certain products

(Ordinary legislative procedure: first reading)

The European Parliament,

– having regard to the Commission proposal to Parliament and the Council (COM(2020)0496),

– having regard to Article 294(2) and Article 207(2) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, pursuant to which the Commission submitted the proposal to Parliament (C9-0284/2020),

– having regard to Article 294(3) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,

– having regard to Rule 59 of its Rules of Procedure,

– having regard to the report of the Committee on International Trade (A9-0217/2020),

1. Adopts its position at first reading, taking over the Commission proposal;

2. Calls on the Commission to refer the matter to Parliament again if it replaces, substantially amends or intends to substantially amend its proposal;

3. Instructs its President to forward its position to the Council, the Commission and the national parliaments.
EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

In a Joint Statement, on 21 August 2020, Commissioner Hogan and United States Trade Representative Lighthizer announced a package of tariff reductions meant “to mark just the beginning of a process that will lead to additional agreements that create more free, fair, and reciprocal transatlantic trade”.

With this regulation, the Commission proposes to eliminate a number of customs tariffs on lobster. The elimination of these duties is subject to two conditions: a) the effective reduction by the U.S. for the tariff lines on a selected number of products (prepared meals, certain crystal glassware, surface preparations, propellant powders, cigarette lighters and lighter parts) and b) the abstention by the U.S. from introducing new measures against the European Union that undermine the objectives pursued by the Joint Statement.

The Commission presented this initiative as the first U.S.-EU negotiated reductions in duties in more than two decades and as a first step to improve EU-U.S. relations. It is thus understood that this “mini-deal”, despite being very limited in scope, could also support the settlement of on-going disputes. In addition, tariffs are eliminated *erga omnes* in line with the Most Favoured Nation principle of the World Trade Organisation.

Notwithstanding the on-going disputes relating to U.S. tariffs on European steel and aluminium and agricultural products, Parliament should support this agreement as a basis for renewed constructive transatlantic engagement, which is in the interest of the citizens and the economies of both the EU and the U.S.. Hopefully, this package of tariff reductions will pave the way towards further balanced, more ambitious and comprehensive negotiations with the U.S., in which Parliament will fully play its institutional role.

In the light of the above, Rapporteur agrees with the proposal as presented by the European Commission.

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### Title
Elimination of customs duties on certain products

### References

### Date submitted to Parliament
8.9.2020

### Committee responsible
**Date announced in plenary**
INTA 17.9.2020

### Rapporteurs
**Date appointed**
Bernd Lange 10.9.2020

### Discussed in committee
24.9.2020  15.10.2020

### Date adopted
10.11.2020

### Result of final vote

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</tbody>
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### Members present for the final vote

### Substitutes present for the final vote
Marek Belka, Jean-Lin Lacapelle

### Date tabled
12.11.2020
# FINAL VOTE BY ROLL CALL IN COMMITTEE RESPONSIBLE

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<table>
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</tr>
<tr>
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<td>Tiziana Beghin, Carles Puigdemont i Casamajó</td>
</tr>
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<td>Anna Michelle Asimakopoulou, Daniel Caspary, Arnaud Danjean, Enikő Győri, Christophe Hansen, Danuta Maria Hübner, Gabriel Mato, Massimiliano Salini, Sven Simon, Jörgen Warborn, Iuliu Winkler</td>
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<td>Barry Andrews, Jordi Cañas, Karin Karlsbro, Samira Rafaela, Liesje Schreinemacher, Marie-Pierre Vedrenne</td>
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<td>S&amp;D</td>
<td>Marek Belka, Udo Bullmann, Miroslav Čiž, Paolo De Castro, Raphaël Glucksmann, Bernd Lange, Inma Rodríguez Piñero, Mihai Tudose, Kathleen Van Brempt</td>
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<td>VERTS/ALE</td>
<td>Saskia Bricmont, Markéta Gregorova, Heidi Hautala, Sara Matthieu</td>
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</table>

Key to symbols:
+ : in favour
- : against
0 : abstention