



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development

2010/0317(NLE)

25.5.2011

OPINION

of the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development

for the Committee on International Trade

on the proposal for a Council decision on the conclusion of the Agreement between the European Union and the Swiss Confederation on the protection of designations of origin and geographical indications for agricultural products and foodstuffs, amending the Agreement between the European Community and the Swiss Confederation on trade in agricultural products (16198/2010 – C7-0126/2011 – 2010/0317(NLE))

Rapporteur: Csaba Sándor Tabajdi

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SHORT JUSTIFICATION

The present proposal is the result of bilateral negotiations, conducted from October 2007 to December 2009. The agreement provides for the mutual protection of designations of origin and geographical indications for agricultural products and foodstuffs, protected by the respective Parties.

The Parties (the European Union and the Swiss Confederation) aim to ensure the mutual recognition of protected designations of origin (PDOs) and protected geographical indications (PGIs) in order to improve the conditions of bilateral trade, to promote quality in the food chain and to retain the value of sustainable rural development. The agreement has no budgetary implication.

On the basis of the above, the Commission is proposing that the Council designate the person(s) empowered to conclude the Agreement on behalf of the European Union.

The Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development suggests approving the Commission proposal. It also notes that in the Annex of the agreement attached to the Commission proposal for a Council decision, the list of protected products is not in accordance with the current DOOR database. According to Commission information, this is due to the fact that the agreement has taken account of the existing databases by September 2009. Since that date, the databases are continuously being updated with new products. Article 16 of the Annex provides for the inclusion of new GIs in Appendix 1 to the Annex using the Committee procedures. The Parties undertake to examine the cases of GIs which are not included in Appendix 1 no later than two years after the entry into force of the Annex and to consult each other with regard to any other amendments to be made to the Annex.

The Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development, further, notes that the legislation on origin protection, as a whole, is going to be revised through the new "Quality Package". Therefore, the Commission should revise the current agreement in December 2011, in the light of this new legislation to be adopted in the field.

The Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development calls on the Committee on International Trade, as the committee responsible, to propose that Parliament give its consent.

RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE

Date adopted	24.5.2011
Result of final vote	+: 34 -: 0 0: 0
Members present for the final vote	John Stuart Agnew, Richard Ashworth, Liam Aylward, José Bové, Luis Manuel Capoulas Santos, Vasilica Viorica Dăncilă, Michel Dantin, Paolo De Castro, Albert Deß, Herbert Dorfmann, Hynek Fajmon, Lorenzo Fontana, Béla Glattfelder, Martin Häusling, Esther Herranz García, Peter Jahr, Elisabeth Jeggle, Jarosław Kalinowski, Elisabeth Köstinger, Agnès Le Brun, George Lyon, Mairead McGuinness, Krisztina Morvai, Mariya Nedelcheva, James Nicholson, Rareş-Lucian Niculescu, Wojciech Michał Olejniczak, Georgios Papastamkos, Marit Paulsen, Britta Reimers, Alfreds Rubiks, Giancarlo Scottà, Czesław Adam Siekierski, Sergio Paolo Francesco Silvestris, Csaba Sándor Tabajdi, Marc Tarabella
Substitute(s) present for the final vote	Luís Paulo Alves, Salvatore Caronna, Esther de Lange
Substitute(s) under Rule 187(2) present for the final vote	Pablo Zalba Bidegain