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Session document

13 March 2002

B5-0135/2002 }
B5-0136/2002 }
B5-0144/2002 }
B5-0154/2002 }

RC1

JOINT MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

pursuant to Rule 50(5) of the Rules of Procedure by

- José Manuel García-Margallo y Marfil, on behalf of the PPE-DE Group
- María Rodríguez Ramos, María Sornosa Martínez, and Luis Berenguer Fuster, on behalf of the PSE Group
- Carlos Bautista Ojeda, Miquel Mayol i Raynal, and Danielle Auroi, on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group
- Salvador Jové Peres, on behalf of the GUE/NGL Group

replacing the motions by the following groups:

- PSE (B5-0135/2002),
- GUE/NGL (B5-0136/2002),
- Verts/ALE (B5-0144/2002),
- PPE-DE (B5-0154/2002),

on the closure of US borders to Community clementines

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PE 314.918}
PE 314.919}
PE 314.928}
PE 316.482} RC1

European Parliament resolution on the closure of US borders to Community clementines

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the work plan in force since 1983 between Spain and the United States for the export of Spanish citrus fruits on to the US market, which was last revised in June 2001,
 - having regard to the suspension of Spanish citrus fruit imports, laid down by the United States as a precautionary measure on 30 November 2001 and finally confirmed on 5 December 2001,
 - having regard to the World Trade Organisation Agreement on the implementation of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS),
- A. whereas the United States has failed to comply with the work plan with Spain on citrus fruits,
- B. whereas the United States has infringed Articles 2.2, 2.3, and 2.5 of the World Trade Organisation Agreement on the implementation of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures for the purpose of imposing trade restrictions when health or plant health risks have been found to exist,
- C. whereas the WTO Agreement on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures stipulates, among other requirements, that trade restrictions must be in proportion to the risks, they must not be discriminatory, and they must not remain in force without sufficient scientific evidence,
- D. whereas the measure adopted unilaterally by the United States is intended to bar Community clementines from the US for the benefit of US and other non-Community citrus fruit production,
- E. whereas the US action regarding clementines cannot be considered separately from its policy on steel products and its end effect is a sweeping substantial change in transatlantic trading relations and fundamental WTO rules,
- F. whereas on 14 February 2002 the Spanish Government requested the Commission to institute formal proceedings in the WTO,
- G. whereas the Spanish Government has opted for a bilateral dialogue with the United States which to date has produced no result apart from a US proposal to amend the Protocol governing Spanish citrus fruit exports,
- H. whereas the fruit and vegetable sector in general and the citrus fruit sector in particular do not receive direct aid under the CAP, because they are completely market oriented; whereas the unilateral closure of borders to Community clementines is leading to substantial losses in the current marketing year and may jeopardise the next one,

1. Calls on the Commission, following the Spanish Government's notification of the matter on 14 February, to expedite all the steps required to resolve the problem and to undertake to brief the EP Agriculture Committee at periodic intervals;
2. Calls on the Commission, in its dealings with the United States, to treat the matter as a barrier to trade and not as a plant health problem, and to prevent the United States from exploiting the dispute to bring about changes to the existing Trade Protocol between Spain and the US that would adversely affect Community producers;
3. Calls on the Commission, if no immediate solution can be found, to institute proceedings against the United States in the WTO;
4. Calls on the Commission to draw up the necessary proposals to compensate those affected for as long as the dispute has not been settled;
5. Condemns the unilateralism of the United States in its trading relations and calls on the countries affected to bear that attitude in mind when the time comes to open multilateral negotiations in the World Trade Organisation;
6. Requests the Agriculture Council that its President-in-Office appear before Parliament to brief it on the proposals and initiatives which the Council is pursuing in order to resolve the dispute and compensate the producers affected;
7. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the governments of the Member States, and the US Administration.