Reduced rate of excise duty on locally produced and consumed alcohol in the autonomous regions of Madeira and the Azores: period of application

2013/0446(CNS) - 17/02/2014 - Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading

The Committee on Regional Development adopted, in the framework of a special legislative procedure (Parliament consultation), the report by Danuta Maria HÜBNER (EPP, PL) on the proposal for a Council decision amending Decision 2009/831/EC as regards its period of application.

To recall, the Portuguese authorities have requested the renewal of the authorisation to apply a reduced rate of excise duty in the autonomous region of Madeira on locally produced and consumed rum and liqueurs and in autonomous region of the Azores on locally produced and consumed liqueurs and eaux-de-vie until 31 December 2020. The renewal needs to be approved both by a Council Decision under Article 349 TFEU and by a Commission Decision on State Aid.

On 28 June 2013, the Commission has adopted new regional aid guidelines for the period 2014-2020. Considering that these Guidelines will enter into force on 1 July 2014, it seems justified to extend the period of application of Decision 2009/831/EC, for six months, so that its expiry date coincides with the expiry date of the current Guidelines.

Given the urgency in adopting this measure, its limited duration (six months) and that it aims at stimulating the economy of outermost regions, the committee proposed that this proposal be approved without amendment.