

Imports of textile products from certain third countries not covered by bilateral agreements, protocols or other arrangements, or by other specific Union import rules: imports from Belarus

2016/0029(COD) - 03/02/2016 - Legislative proposal

PURPOSE: to abolish the autonomous quotas on imports of textiles and clothing originating in Belarus.

PROPOSED ACT: Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council.

ROLE OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT: the European Parliament decides in accordance with the ordinary legislative procedure and on an equal footing with the Council.

BACKGROUND: [Regulation \(EU\) 2015/936](#) of the European Parliament and of the Council establishes common rules for imports of textile products from certain third countries not covered by bilateral agreements, protocols or other arrangements, or by other specific Union import rules.

The **release of the political prisoners on 22 August 2015** was an important step, which together with several positive initiatives undertaken by Belarus over the last two years contributed to the improvement of EU-Belarus relations.

The Commission considers that it is necessary to recognise the positive political developments between the European Union and Belarus and to further improve bilateral relations.

CONTENT: recognising the positive political developments in relations between the European Union and Belarus and in order to further improve bilateral relations, the Commission proposes to **abolish the autonomous quotas on imports of textiles and clothing originating in Belarus**, also considering their limited use. To that effect, Annexes II and III of Regulation (EU) 2015/936 should be amended accordingly.

In addition, this opportunity will be seized to correct erroneous CN codes and to introduce the official names of the Republic of Belarus and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea according to the 2011 Interinstitutional Style Guide of the European Union, as well as to **increase the period of validity of import authorisations from six to nine months** in order to facilitate administrative procedures.