EU/Egypt Agreement: modification of concessions on all the tariff rate quotas included in the EU Schedule CLXXV as a consequence of the United Kingdom's withdrawal from the European Union

2023/0296(NLE) - 08/03/2024 - Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading

The Committee on international trade adopted the report by Marco CAMPOMENOSI (ID, IT) on the draft Council decision on the conclusion, on behalf of the Union, of the Agreement in the form of an Exchange of Letters between the European Union and the Arab Republic of Egypt pursuant to Article XXVIII of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) 1994 relating to the modification of concessions on all the tariff rate quotas included in the EU Schedule CLXXV as a consequence of the United Kingdom's withdrawal from the European Union.

The committee recommended that the European Parliament **give its consent** to the conclusion of the Protocol.

In 2018, the EU formally launched the negotiations process under Article XXVIII of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) of 1994 with a number of WTO Members in Geneva.

The underlying principle of the negotiations is a ‘joint approach’ developed between the EU and the UK back in 2017 on how to ‘apportion’ the quantitative commitments contained in the EU28 WTO schedule for the 143 EU agricultural, fish and industrial WTO tariff rate quotas (TRQ).The basis of this approach was that the existing volume of each TRQ would be fully maintained in the future, but split across two separate customs territories: the EU27 and the UK.

The Arab Republic of Egypt has negotiating rights for one erga omnes TRQ on cucumbers. A change in volume has been agreed for this TRQ. The EU27 share had been revised to 647 tonnes, taking into account the reference period from 2013 to 2016.

Negotiations with Egypt resulted in an Agreement in the form of an Exchange of Letters that was initialled on 22 May 2023 in Geneva.