EC/Switzerland agreement: trade in agricultural products, tariff and non-tariff obstacles

1999/0108(AVC) - 03/04/2000

On 3 April 2000, the Council presented the single and consolidated legislative instrument with the purpose of the approval of 7 agreements between the Community and its Member States, on the one hand, and the Swiss Confederation, on the other. This proposal for a decision integrates within a single legal instrument the 7 proposals for decision previously presented by the Commission by introducing the required amended text and procedures with a view to the proper implementation of the various agreements in question. The Council decision specifies the internal procedures for the proper operation of each of the agreements: in this context, certain tasks will be accorded to joint committees set up by the agreements (in particular, competence for the amendment of certain aspects of their sectorial annexes). The Commission would be enabled to proceed with necessary technical amendments and to adopt appropriate decisions for the implementation of the agreements. In specific cases, the Council will reserve the right to itself determine the Community's position upon proposal from the Commission (in particular, in the area of the free movement of persons). In addition, the field of agriculture, specific implementation measures are provided for in line with the 1999 'comitology' decision of the Council (1999/468/EC). With the exception of the agreement on the free movement of persons which requires ratification by national parliaments and the European Parliament, the agreements will have to be ratified by the European Parliament because they fall within Community competence. As all the agreements were negotiated together, they will be concluded and will enter into force on the same date. There are, therefore, no provisional measures to be taken before the entry into force of the abovementioned agreements. It should be noted that 6 of these agreements are approved in the name of the Community and only one of them (the agreement on scientific and technological cooperation) is approved in the name of the European Community and EURATOM.