Generalised tariff preferences: products of least-developed countries, from July 1999 to 31 December 2001

2000/0239(COS) - 16/05/2001 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament adopted the resolution by Mr Joaquim MIRANDA (EUL/NGL, P) on modifications to current legislation on generalised tariff preferences, which will extend duty free access to products originating in the 48 least developed countries - except for weapons and ammunition. For bananas, rice and sugar the Commission is proposing a gradual transition to free market access over a three year perod. It also includes a series of anti-fraud measures. A series of amendments were adopted that seek to strengthen the resolution. One calls for the all food products to meet strict food safety criteria. Another calls for the establishment of a joint EU-LDC Committee in cases of fraud that would investigate and temporarily suspend tariff concessions. Finally an amendment calls on the Commission to keep a close eye on local markets in the poorest countries so that excessive amounts are not exported.