Basic information

1994/0209(CNS) CNS - Consultation procedure Regulation	Procedure completed
Generalized system of preferences: revision of the system 1995-1997 for industrial products **Subject** 3.40 Industrial policy 6.30.01 Generalised scheme of tariff preferences (GSP), rules of origin	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
DEVE Development and Cooperation	MAIJ-WEGGEN Hanja (PPE)	25/08/1994

Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
BUDG Budgets	SAMLAND Detlev (PSE)	03/11/1994
ECON Economic and Monetary Affairs, Industrial Policy	RANDZIO-PLATH Christa (PSE)	04/11/1994
RELA External Economic Relations	MIRANDA DE LAGE Ana (PSE)	03/11/1994
JURI Legal Affairs, Citizens' Rights	GEBHARDT Evelyne (PSE)	26/07/1994

Council of the European Union

Council configuration	Meetings	Date
General Affairs	1820	1994-12-19

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
13/07/1994	Additional information		Summary
19/09/1994	Legislative proposal published	COM(1994)0337	Summary
24/10/1994	Committee referral announced in Parliament		

14/11/1994	Vote in committee		
14/11/1994	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading	A4-0071/1994	
17/11/1994	Debate in Parliament		
19/12/1994	Act adopted by Council after consultation of Parliament		
19/12/1994	End of procedure in Parliament		
31/12/1994	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	1994/0209(CNS)
Procedure type	CNS - Consultation procedure
Procedure subtype	International agreement
Legislative instrument	Regulation
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 170 EC Treaty (before Amsterdam) E 113
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	DEVE/4/06053

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading		A4-0071/1994 OJ C 341 05.12.1994, p. 0014	14/11/1994	
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading		T4-0153/1994 OJ C 341 05.12.1994, p. 0201-0245	18/11/1994	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Legislative proposal	COM(1994)0337	19/09/1994	Summary

Other institutions and bodies

Institution/body	Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
EESC	Economic and Social Committee: opinion, report	CES1159/1994 OJ C 397 31.12.1994, p. 0003	20/10/1994	Summary

Additional information

Source	Document	Date
European Commission	EUR-Lex	

Final act	
Regulation 1994/3281 OJ L 348 31.12.1994, p. 0001	Summary

Generalized system of preferences: revision of the system 1995-1997 for industrial products

1994/0209(CNS) - 18/11/1994 - Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading

Parliament approved the Commission proposal subject to 36 amendments. These amendments aimed mainly to: - amend the legal basis by adding a reference to Article 130w; - highlight the shortcomings of the present scheme; - stress that the generalised system of preferences was one form of financial assistance provided by the Union to the beneficiary countries and that when this regulation expired, the overall volume of preferential trade should be reviewed to meet the needs of the poorer developing countries; - ensure that the new offer was not applied to countries that had managed to integrate sufficiently into the world economy and whose per capita gross national product (GNP) was above USD 6 000 in 1991; - include transitional support for the former Soviet Union among the objectives; - include among the criteria the principles of prohibiting child labour and equal treatment of men and women, in order to strengthen support for countries making efforts in this field and for the temporary removal of the advantages of the scheme from those who did not respect these principles; - strengthen administrative cooperation and mutual assistance in customs matters with a view to checking the origin of products benefiting under the Community's generalised system of preferences and combating possible distortions of trade; - call on the Commission to devise criteria for an effective environmental policy for the developing countries; - take account of the financial consequences of the generalised system of preferences with a view to strengthening the principle of budgetary discipline; - stress the need to refer matters concerning the application of the scheme to an advisory committee on generalised preferences; - postpone from 1 January 1996 to 1 January 1997 the 50% reduction in the preferential margin obtained by applying Article 2 to imports of products originating in the countries and falling within the sectors listed in part I of Annex II; - bring forward from 1997 to 1996 the date for the application of the special incentive arrangements provided for in Article 5; - extend the arrangements provided for in Article 5 to countries which respected equal treatment of men and women, in line with International Labour Organisation Conventions Nos 100, 111 and 156 and the UN Convention on the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women; - include the infringement of intellectual property rights and the manufacture of products which were the subject of legally recognised restrictive measures, in cases justifying the removal of the advantages of the scheme; - ensure that Parliament was informed of the decision taken by the Commission with regard to the renewal of Common Customs Tariff duties so that it could refer the decision to the Council, which, in turn and after consultation of the European Parliament, could amend this decision; - ensure that every year, during the presentation of the budget, the Commission informed Parliament of the measures taken to combat fraud.

Generalized system of preferences: revision of the system 1995-1997 for industrial products

1994/0209(CNS) - 19/09/1994 - Legislative proposal

This proposal for a regulation aimed to apply a new scheme of generalised tariff preferences for three years (1995-1997) in respect of certain industrial products originating in developing countries. This new scheme was characterised by the following points: - principle of neutrality: a level of liberalisation which was neutral overall compared with the existing scheme as regards the impact of the preferential margin on the volume of preferential trade. This neutrality was nevertheless "corrected" by special incentive arrangements (social and environmental clauses) which constituted additional preferences with respect to the basic system (20%, or even 30% where 2 clauses were grouped together). These arrangements would enter into force two years after the entry into force of the new system: - simplified tariffs: the tariffs were established according to the sensitivity of the products: . sensitive products: 80% of the CCT, . semi-sensitive products: 40% of the CCT, . non-sensitive products: 0% of the CCT. - a product/country safeguard clause was provided for on the basis of the principle of serious damage; - a GSP sector/country graduation system: this involved transferring the preferential margins from developed countries to less developed countries through a system of industrial specialisation, based on the level of development of the country (combination of two indices: development and specialisation). This system of graduation was supplemented by a solidarity mechanism applicable in exceptional circumstances (from 1996). The graduation and solidarity mechanisms would be applied progressively in order to enable the economic operators to adapt to the new GSP elements. - suspensions were provided for (in cases of fraud, etc.); - special arrangements were established for countries involved in combating the production and trafficking of drugs (Andean countries); - beneficiaries: the current list was maintained for three years with the countries of the former USSR for a transitional period and South Africa.

Generalized system of preferences: revision of the system 1995-1997 for industrial products

1994/0209(CNS) - 19/12/1994 - Final act

The Council adopted the proposal for a regulation (which became Regulation (EC) No 3281/94) concerning the multiannual scheme of generalised tariff preferences for the period 1995-1998. This new GSP for four years incorporated substantial improvements, particularly with regard to simplification, transparency and stability. As a replacement for the instrument for quantitative restrictions, it was based on a differentiation of preferential duties (except for less developed countries and "drugs" beneficiaries) based on the sensitivity of the products: * 85% of the Common Customs Tariff for very sensitive products; * 70% for sensitive products; * 35% for semi-sensitive products; * 0% for non-sensitive products. The new system also provided for the gradual application of a system of graduation aimed at ensuring a fairer distribution of the preferential benefits by transferring preferential margins from more developed countries to less developed countries: this involved the gradual exclusion of certain industrial sectors for certain countries, according to their level of industrial development. With regard to the special incentive arrangements proposed by the Commission - in accordance with social and environmental criteria - and providing for additional preferential margins, all options remained open. In fact, the Council would in 1997 carry out a review, with a view to implementation of this system from 1998, taking account, in particular, of a Commission report on the results of the studies carried out in international fora such as the ILO, the WTO and the OECD on the relationship between trade and labour rights and the environment. Finally, the new system also contained a clause suspending the scheme, particularly in cases of fraud, as a result of unfair trading practices or forced labour. It also provided for transitional provisions applicable until 15 March 1995 with a view to facilitating the changeover to the new system, which entered into force on 1 January 1995.

Generalized system of preferences: revision of the system 1995-1997 for industrial products

1994/0209(CNS) - 20/10/1994