Basic information

1996/0043(CNS) CNS - Consultation procedure Decision	Procedure completed
Association of the overseas countries and territories OCTs : mid-term review of Decision 91/482/EEC **Subject** 4.70.06 Outlying and outermost regions, overseas countries and territories	

Key players

Council of the European Union

Council configuration	Meetings	Date
General Affairs	2011	1997-06-02
General Affairs	2029	1997-10-06
General Affairs	2019	1997-06-26
General Affairs	2047	1997-11-24
General Affairs	2024	1997-07-22

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
14/02/1996	Legislative proposal published	COM(1995)0739	Summary
02/06/1997	Debate in Council		
26/06/1997	Debate in Council		
22/07/1997	Debate in Council		Summary
22/07/1997	Additional information		
24/11/1997	Act adopted by Council after consultation of Parliament		
29/11/1997	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	1996/0043(CNS)
Procedure type	CNS - Consultation procedure
Procedure subtype	Legislation
Legislative instrument	Decision
Legal basis	EC Treaty (before Amsterdam) E 136
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed

Committee dossier	DEVE/4/11400

Documentation gateway			
European Commission			
Document type	**Reference**	**Date**	**Summary**
Legislative proposal	COM(1995)0739 OJ C 139 10.05.1996, p. 0001	14/02/1996	Summary

Additional information		
Source	**Document**	**Date**
European Commission	EUR-Lex	

Final act	
Decision 1997/0803 OJ L 329 29.11.1997, p. 0050	Summary

Association of the overseas countries and territories OCTs : mid-term review of Decision 91/482/EEC

1996/0043(CNS) - 06/10/1997

The Council agreed on a basis for a political compromise on the trade and financial aspects to be applied for the second period of application of the 1991 Decision on the association of the OCT (Overseas Countries and Territories) with the Community. It instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to finalize the text of the revised Decision with a view to its entry into force by 30 November 1997 at the latest.

Association of the overseas countries and territories OCTs : mid-term review of Decision 91/482/EEC

1996/0043(CNS) - 22/07/1997

The Council took stock of the work being done on the trade aspects of the mid-term review of the Decision on the association of the overseas countries and territories (OCT) of 1991. The Council took note of a new compromise formula put forward · as regards rice and sugar · by the Presidency and · as regards other products · by the Netherlands delegation. It asked the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue its work on this basis with a view to a final solution being reached at the Council meeting on 15 September.

Association of the overseas countries and territories OCTs : mid-term review of Decision 91/482/EEC

1996/0043(CNS) - 14/02/1996 - Legislative proposal

- OBJECTIVE: to amend Decision 91/482/EEC on the OCT in order to make the adjustments and innovations to the basic text required in the light of the mid-term review, in particular with regard to trade arrangements, the tariff concessions accorded to the territories, and the budget. - SUBSTANCE: the Decision makes substantial alterations to Decision 91/482/EEC on the OCT relating to the following points: . democratic dialogue and partnership to be established with OCT local authorities; . changes in the trade arrangements: the OCT have hitherto benefited from generous tariff concessions in

respect of all products originating from their territory. However, the free access to the Community enjoyed by some of these products and the combination of the concessions and the preferential treatment granted to ACP products has disrupted the market because the products in question (rice, for example) fall under a COM in the Community. To deal with this clash of policies, the Commission is proposing that the system affording free access to the Community for OCT products should continue but be coupled with machinery for applying minimum import prices to products covered by a COM. It is also proposed to do away with automatic cumulation for ACP and OCT agricultural products, although such cumulation will still be permissible in certain exceptional cases, subject to checks (the least developed OCT will have priority); . adjustments and clarifications: the proposal adds new provisions on the development of trade and services, shipping, relations with the Azores, Madeira, and the Canary Islands, terms and conditions of financing, and EDF implementation procedures. Human rights and structural adjustment, however, are not mentioned. It is likewise proposed to insert new articles, taken from Lomé IV, relating to the Centre for the Development of Industry, Euro Info Correspondence Centres, health, and decentralized cooperation; . innovations as regards individual rights and the status of OCT nationals: under the Decision: - Member States and the OCT will observe the principle of non-discrimination in their bilateral relations where the establishment of nationals, companies, or enterprises is concerned (limited derogations will be permitted in connection with local activities in the OCT), - steps are to be taken to enable diplomas obtained in OCT eventually to be recognized in the Community, - OCT nationals will be eligible to take part in certain Community programmes (22 programmes including Socrates); . share-out of the budget: for the second implementation period of Decision 91/482/EEC, the following resources have been granted to the OCT (Cannes European Council of 27 June 1995): - ECU 165 m under the Eighth EDF (an increase of 18% compared with the Seventh EDF), the programmable portion of which will be split among British, Dutch, and French OCT, - ECU 35 m (i.e. an increase of 40%) in the form of EIB assistance, to be financed from the Bank's own resources. With regard to the breakdown of expenditure, the Commission is proposing that the budget appropriations for non-programmable aid (namely Sysmin, Stabex, emergency aid, and so forth) should remain unchanged. The slight reduction in programmable regional funds will, however, be offset by a correspondingly grater increase in the funding for national indicative programmes (NIPs); . addition of Saint-Pierre-et-Miquelon to the list of least developed OCT; . conversion whereby special loans under the Fifth and Sixth EDFs (OCT appropriation) not committed as at 30 June 1995 will become grants (approximately ECU 6 m).

Association of the overseas countries and territories OCTs : mid-term review of Decision 91/482/EEC

1996/0043(CNS) - 24/11/1997 - Final act

OBJECTIVE: to amend Decision 91/482/EEC on the overseas countries and territories to adjust and introduce innovations into the basic text with regard to trade arrangements, tariff concessions and financial aid following a mid-term review. COMMUNITY MEASURE: Council Decision 97/803/EC amending at mid-term Decision 91/482/EEC on the association of the overseas countries and territories with the European Economic Community. SUBSTANCE: In accordance with Decision 91/482/EEC, the Decision reviews after an initial period of five years the provisions concerning the association of the overseas countries and territories (OCT) with the Community. The principal effect of the Decision is to alter the financial assistance granted by the Community for a further five-year period (from 01.03.1995 to 28.02.2005) and to lay down new provisions in other fields. The main changes may be summarized as follows: -financial provisions: ECU 165 m is allocated under the 8th EDF for the period in question, and ECU 35 m in loans from the EIB from own resources to finance development programmes and projects in the OCT; -partnership: a partnership is to be established between the Commission, Member States and the OCT to make it possible to consult local authorities in the OCT regularly concerning any subject of mutual interest; participation by the Member State responsible for a country or territory in any activities covered by the partnership agreement; -tariff concessions: establishment of a new framework more conducive to the regularity of trade compatible with the common agricultural policy (the free access to the Community market granted to all products originating in the OCT by Decision 91/482/EEC and the combination of these concessions with the preferential regime granted to ACP products had seriously disrupted the Community market, leading to safeguard measures. The new arrangements will tackle this problem); -trade rules: following the mid-term review of the Lomé Convention, a number of amendments were made to the Convention to improve the effectiveness of cooperation, promote local initiatives better by means of greater decentralization of cooperation and of the development of trade and services. Similar changes are made in the present decision; -social provisions: several clauses are designed to take better account of the human dimension of the association between the OCT and the Community. Particularly, OCT nationals will be admitted to certain Community programmes (Socrates, Leonardo, etc.) and a process is to be initiated which will ultimately make it possible for diplomas obtained in the OCT to be recognized in the Community. ENTRY INTO FORCE: the Decision enters into force on 30.11.1997 (except for the financial provisions which depend on an internal agreement).