Basic information

1997/2199(COS) COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic)	Procedure completed
Preferential tariff arrangements: management **Subject** 6.30.01 Generalised scheme of tariff preferences (GSP), rules of origin	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
DEVE Development and Cooperation	NORDMANN Jean-Thomas (ELDR)	09/10/1997

Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
RELA External Economic Relations	VAN DAM Rijk (I-EDN)	07/10/1997
CONT Budgetary Control		

Council of the European Union

Council configuration	Meetings	Date
Competitiveness (Internal Market, Industry, Research and Space)	2094	1998-05-18

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
23/07/1997	Non-legislative basic document published	COM(1997)0402	Summary
19/09/1997	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
18/05/1998	Resolution/conclusions adopted by Council		
23/06/1998	Vote in committee		Summary
23/06/1998	Committee report tabled for plenary	A4-0262/1998	
21/10/1998	Debate in Parliament		
22/10/1998	End of procedure in Parliament		
09/11/1998	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	1997/2199(COS)
Procedure type	COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic)
Procedure subtype	Commission strategy paper
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 148
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	DEVE/4/09226

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A4-0262/1998 OJ C 292 21.09.1998, p. 0004	23/06/1998	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T4-0624/1998 OJ C 341 09.11.1998, p. 0106-0145	22/10/1998	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Non-legislative basic document	COM(1997)0402	23/07/1997	Summary

Preferential tariff arrangements: management

1997/2199(COS) - 22/10/1998 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

Adopting the report by Mr Jean-Thomas Nordmann (ELDR, F) on preferential tariff arrangements, Parliament considers that an effective and deterrent system of penalties should be set up for beneficiary countries and their operators convicted of fraud, going as far as the withdrawal of preferences. It welcomes the introduction in 1995 of a system of penalties in the Community's GSP but regrets that it has been too little used and calls for its scope and implementing provisions to be reviewed with a view to making effective use of it. With regard to fraud detection, Parliament considers that Commission delegations in third countries have an important preventive, detection and deterrent role to play, in cooperation with the representatives of the Member States. Parliament calls for the rules on origin to be revised and eased and stresses the need for a new approach to derogations, to make regional accumulation generally applicable and to take account of the interests of the least-developed countries. Parliament calls on the Commission to make proposals to ensure that liability is fairly apportioned in cases where, as a result of proven irregularities committed by the authorities of the beneficiary countries, EU importers are penalised for making use of preferential tariff arrangements. It also calls on the Commission to take the necessary steps to prevent transshipments of products from countries excluded from the scheme from taking place in the beneficiary countries.

Preferential tariff arrangements: management

1997/2199(COS) - 23/07/1997 - Non-legislative basic document

OBJECTIVE: to analyse the discrepancies of preferential tariff arrangements with a view to strengthening these arrangements. SUBSTANCE: as the leading entity in world trade, the Community put this economic advantage to use in its external policies of which preferential tariff arrangements were one of the main implementing instruments. From being the exception, these arrangements had, in many cases, become the rule, and they played an important part in the Community's external policies and in dealing by traders. The Commission's Communication proposes a detailed analysis of the discrepancies of preferential tariff arrangements and put forward proposals aimed at reforming the conditions of application. The European Parliament was greatly concerned by two essential characteristics of this problem: the fight against fraud and the Community's external policy on development. The European Commission considered that the problem was a global one, but pointed out that the players in preferential tariff arrangements -

Community traders, customs authorities of the Member States, as well as producers and exporters in third countries - were often responsible for such a situation, as well as being victims thereof. In fact, the discrepancies were numerous and they were becoming worse. Preferential treatment could be obtained by using the wrong tariff classification for goods, by giving a false indication of the customs value and, as was becoming more common, by the traders concerned not abiding by the rules of origin. No category of products was untouched by such discrepancies. For the provision of the answers, the Commission stated that it would be necessary, amongst other things: - to settle previous cases on the basis of the ruler existing at the time that the facts had been established, in conformity with the legal precedent setting out that faith in the certificate of origin was not normally protected, but constituted a 'normal commercial risk'; - to restore confidence in the arrangements, particularly by making sure that the Member States, first and foremost responsible in the application thereof, attained this in a uniform and harmonized manner; - to make all of the players in the arrangements aware of their responsibilities, in their mutual interest, so that they assumed their obligations on this question and to put them in a position to do so; - to legislate, whenever it became necessary.