Basic information

2000/0239(COS) COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic)	Procedure completed
Generalised tariff preferences: products of least-developed countries, from July 1999 to 31 December 2001 **Subject** 6.30.01 Generalised scheme of tariff preferences (GSP), rules of origin 6.40.12 Relations with developing countries in general	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
DEVE Development and Cooperation	MIRANDA Joaquim (GUE /NGL)	22/11/2000

Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
BUDG Budgets	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
ITRE Industry, External Trade, Research, Energy	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
AGRI Agriculture and Rural Development	KREISSL-DÖRFLER Wolfgang (PSE)	24/01/2001

Council of the European Union

Council configuration	Meetings	Date
General Affairs	2331	2001-02-26
Agriculture and Fisheries	2402	2001-12-19

European Commission

Commission DG	Commissioner
Trade and Economic Security	

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
		COM(2000)0561	Summary

05/10/2000	Non-legislative basic document published		
02/04/2001	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
10/04/2001	Vote in committee		
10/04/2001	Committee report tabled for plenary	A5-0128/2001	
15/05/2001	Debate in Parliament		
16/05/2001	Decision by Parliament	T5-0267/2001	Summary
16/05/2001	End of procedure in Parliament		
07/02/2002	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2000/0239(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/5/13884

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A5-0128/2001	10/04/2001	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T5-0267/2001 OJ C 034 07.02.2002, p. 0170-0243 E	16/05/2001	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Non-legislative basic document	COM(2000)0561	05/10/2000	Summary

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.

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

2000/0239(COS) - 05/10/2000 - Non-legislative basic document

PURPOSE: Proposal for a Council Regulation amending Council Regulation 2820/98/EC applying a multiannual scheme of generalised tariff preferences for the period 1 July 1999 to 31 December 2001 so as to extend duty-free access without any quantitative restrictions to products originating in the least-developed countries. CONTENT: This proposal is a result of the Community's (recently renewed) undertakings for the least developed countries (LLDCs), and seeks to translate those undertakings into action. Most recently, the Partnership Agreement between African, Caribbean and Pacific States and the European Community and its Member States, signed at Cotonou (Benin) on 23 June 2000 states that, by the year 2000, the Community will start a process which, by the end of of World Trade Organisation (WTO) multilateral trade negotiations and at the latest by 2005, will allow duty-free access for essentially all products from all LLDCs, building on the level of the existing trade provisions, that apply to their exports. Against this background, the main objective of this proposal is to amend Article 6 of Council Regulation 2820/98/EEC concerning the special support arrangements for the least-developed countries. However, logically, this amendment would entail the amendment of other articles. Therefore, a reference to the new Article 6 must be included in Article 1(2) of the Regulation concerning the scope of the scheme's application. Furthermore, technical amendments must be made to Article 7 and Annex VII of the Regulation to define more exactly the scope of the special support arrangements for the fight against drugs following the amendments in favour of the least-developed countries. Finally, technical amendments are also necessary in Article 29(4) of the Regulation so as not to restrict the benefits to the least-developed countries to ad valorem duties alone. In conclusion, the Commission is aware that such an opening increases the risk of fraud and failure to adhere to the rules of origin, so it is proposing to put in place stronger safeguard measures, similar to those which the Council adopted in connection with the exceptional trade measures for the countries and territories of the Western Balkans. The proposal amends Article 22 of the basic Regulation on the GSP and provides for tariff concessions to be temporarily suspended in cases of fraud, failure to adhere to the rules of origin and/or huge increases in imports into the Community beyond the usual output or export capacity of the countries concerned.