Basic information

2001/0218(CNS) CNS - Consultation procedure Decision	Procedure completed
World Trade Organisation WTO : accession of China, Community position **Subject** 6.20.01 Agreements and relations in the context of the World Trade Organization (WTO) **Geographical area** China	

Key players

European Parliament	**Committee responsible**	**Rapporteur**	**Appointed**
	ITRE Industry, External Trade, Research, Energy	GAHRTON Per (V/ALE)	10/10/2001
Council of the European Union	**Council configuration**	**Meetings**	**Date**
	General Affairs	2379	2001-10-29
European Commission	**Commission DG**	**Commissioner**	
	Trade and Economic Security		

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
19/09/2001	Legislative proposal published	COM(2001)0517	Summary
15/10/2001	Vote in committee		Summary
15/10/2001	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading	A5-0366/2001	
22/10/2001	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
24/10/2001	Debate in Parliament		
25/10/2001	Decision by Parliament	T5-0569/2001	Summary
29/10/2001	Act adopted by Council after consultation of Parliament		
29/10/2001	End of procedure in Parliament		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2001/0218(CNS)
Procedure type	CNS - Consultation procedure
Procedure subtype	International agreement
Legislative instrument	Decision
Legal basis	EC Treaty (after Amsterdam) EC 037 EC Treaty (after Amsterdam) EC 044 EC Treaty (after Amsterdam) EC 047 EC Treaty (after Amsterdam) EC 055 EC Treaty (after Amsterdam) EC 300-p3-a1 EC Treaty (after Amsterdam) EC 080-p2 EC Treaty (after Amsterdam) EC 095 EC Treaty (after Amsterdam) EC 133 EC Treaty (after Amsterdam) EC 308 EC Treaty (after Amsterdam) EC 071
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	ITRE/5/15270

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading		A5-0366/2001	15/10/2001	
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading		T5-0569/2001 OJ C 112 09.05.2002, p. 0205-0313 E	25/10/2001	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Legislative proposal	COM(2001)0517 OJ C 051 26.02.2002, p. 0314 E	19/09/2001	Summary

Additional information

Source	Document	Date
European Commission	EUR-Lex	

World Trade Organisation WTO : accession of China, Community position

2001/0218(CNS) - 25/10/2001 - Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading

In approving the resolution by Mr Per GAHRTON (Greens/EFA, S), the European Parliament has expressed firm backing for the WTO membership application of China. A large part of the accession negotiations with the EU focuses on services. China's commitment cover a wide range of service sectors form insurance companies to banks and even part of the telecoms sector. China has also pledged to abide fully by the rules of the TRIPs Agreement (protection of intellectual property rights). For its part, the EU has always accorded China most favoured nation status. There will thus be virtually no new obligations for the EU arising from China's membership.

World Trade Organisation WTO : accession of China, Community position

2001/0218(CNS) - 19/09/2001 - Legislative proposal

PURPOSE : to establish the Community position on the accession of the China to the World Trade Organisation. CONTENT : Members of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) and the People's Republic of China have reached the concluding stage of agreement on the terms for China's accession to the organisation. This comes after fifteen years of negotiations, which began when China applied to join the General Agreement on Tariffs & Trade (GATT) in 1986. There must now be a Council Decision approving the terms of China's entry, before the EU can formally support China's entry. There follows an outline of the implications of China's membership for the EU, the WTO system, and for China herself, and a summary of the terms themselves. The terms of an accession take two basic forms. First there are the schedules of commitments, which set out the full range of market access obligations which China will be legally bound to grant to every Member when it enters the WTO. The schedules cover tariffs and non-tariff measures applicable to agricultural trade and industrial goods (commitments under the GATT), and services (commitments under the General Agreement on Trade in Services, or GATS). Second there are the Protocol and Working Party Report on the accession of China to the WTO. These documents, which also include legally binding commitments, essentially set out how China promises to fulfil her new WTO obligations. As well as containing detailed descriptions of, and obligations relating to, China's current and planned trade and investment régimes, they detail a number of special provisions to which China will be subject during the first years of her WTO Membership. These temporary derogations from normal WTO rules are intended to reflect the unique challenge of incorporating China into the world trading system. This is an economy in the midst of transition from state ownership to the market based system; a country that has taken many measures to introduce market economics, but where certain features of a state led economy still prevail. Most notably, the protocol affords other Members special protection for their own industries against damaging surges of exports from China. In submitting the terms of Accession of the People's Republic of China to the WTO for approval by the Council, and for the opinion of the European Parliament, the Commission commends these terms as representing a balanced but ambitious package of market opening commitments, which will bring substantial benefits to China and her WTO trading partners alike.