Basic information

2003/0259(CNS) CNS - Consultation procedure Regulation	Procedure completed
Generalised tariff preferences: extension to 31 December 2005 Amending Regulation (EC) No 2501/2001 2001/0131(CNS) **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	VAN DEN BERG Margrietus (PSE)	26/11/2003

Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
ITRE Industry, External Trade, Research, Energy	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	

Council of the European Union

Council configuration	Meetings	Date
Transport, Telecommunications and Energy	2554	2003-12-15

European Commission

Commission DG	Commissioner
Trade and Economic Security	

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
29/10/2003	Legislative proposal published	COM(2003)0634	Summary
17/11/2003	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
26/11/2003	Vote in committee		
26/11/2003	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading	A5-0424/2003	
04/12/2003	Decision by Parliament	T5-0538/2003	Summary
15/12/2003	Act adopted by Council after consultation of Parliament		

15/12/2003	End of procedure in Parliament		
19/12/2003	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2003/0259(CNS)
Procedure type	CNS - Consultation procedure
Procedure subtype	International agreement
Legislative instrument	Regulation
Amendments and repeals	Amending Regulation (EC) No 2501/2001 2001/0131(CNS)
Legal basis	EC Treaty (after Amsterdam) EC 133
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	DEVE/5/20293

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading		A5-0424/2003	26/11/2003	
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading		T5-0538/2003 OJ C 089 14.04.2004, p. 0031-0101 E	04/12/2003	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Legislative proposal	COM(2003)0634	29/10/2003	Summary

Other institutions and bodies

Institution/body	Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
EESC	Economic and Social Committee: opinion, report	CES1623/2003 OJ C 080 30.03.2004, p. 0156-0157	10/11/2003	

Additional information

Source	Document	Date
European Commission	EUR-Lex	

Final act

Regulation 2003/2211
OJ L 332 19.12.2003, p. 0001-0002 Summary

Generalised tariff preferences: extension to 31 December 2005

2003/0259(CNS) - 15/12/2003 - Final act

PURPOSE : to extend for one year the period in Regulation 2501/2001/EC applying a scheme of generalised tariff preferences for the period from 01 /01/2002 to 31/12/2004. LEGISLATIVE ACT : Council Regulation 2211/2003/EC amending Regulation 2501/2001/EC applying a scheme of generalised tariff preferences for the period from 1 January 2002 to 31 December 2004 and extending it to 31 December 2005. CONTENT : the multilateral trade negotiations launched at the fourth ministerial conference of the World Trade Organisation in Doha in November 2001 are not yet over. It is therefore premature to draw up guidelines for applying the scheme from 2005 to 2014, which is a valid reason for renewing the current scheme for one year. Article 12 of Regulation 2501/2001/EC should be amended now to avoid any adverse impact on beneficiary countries whose low volume of GSP-covered trade makes them vulnerable to any change in tariff preferences. In order to take into account the individual characteristics of the developing countries benefiting from the GSP, the special incentive arrangements for the protection of labour rights need to be strengthened in order to give more encouragement to the gradual adoption of the standards set out in the International Labour Organisation (ILO) declaration. ENTRY INTO FORCE : 22/12/2003.

Generalised tariff preferences: extension to 31 December 2005

2003/0259(CNS) - 04/12/2003 - Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading

The European Parliament adopted a resolution drafted by Margrietus van den BERG (PES, NL). Parliament stated that the enhanced flexibility in applying special incentive arrangements for the protection of labour rights should not undermine the authority of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and the effectiveness of its instruments and supervisory bodies. It also felt that the discussion on the new ten-year guidelines and first implementing Regulation, taking into account the outcome of the WTO Doha round, should be started sufficiently early to allow for the consultation of partner countries, non-state actors and EU institutions, including the European Parliament.

Generalised tariff preferences: extension to 31 December 2005

2003/0259(CNS) - 29/10/2003 - Legislative proposal

PURPOSE : to extend for one year the period in Regulation 2501/2001/EC applying a scheme of generalised tariff preferences for the period from 01 /01/02 to 31/12/04. PROPOSED ACT : Council Regulation. CONTENT : The Community adopted Regulation 2501/2001/EC applying a scheme of generalised tariff preferences for the period from 1 January 2002 to 31 December 2004. This latter date will see the expiry of both the ten-year guidelines for the period 1995 to 2004 and of the last implementing Regulation for the years 2002 to 2004. The new ten-year guidelines and their first implementing Regulation should normally enter into force on 1 January 2005. Keeping to this timetable would require the Commission to submit its proposal for a Regulation this year so that it can be adopted in 2004 at the latest. However, given that the round of multilateral negotiations launched in Doha will not be completed in time, it is proposed to defer adoption of the ten-year guidelines to a later date and to renew the current Regulation 2501 /2001 for one year, namely 2005. This extension must be accompanied by a number of changes to the GSP. However, these changes have to be compatible with the 1994 ten-year guidelines. The main proposed change is to the annual adjustment of the offer by graduation. Country/sector graduation has existed since 1996; this year, however, is the first time that it has been applied on an annual basis. Based on the experience, it appears necessary not to apply the graduation to the smallest countries, in order to concentrate it most on the biggest beneficiaries. Accordingly, the graduation mechanism can be modified in order to exclude, in a non-discriminatory way, all beneficiary countries accounting for less than 1% of GSP imports. In practice, this will focus the effects of graduation on the principal GSP beneficiaries, a dozen countries accounting for the bulk of GSP trade. This new mechanism does not prejudge the question of whether further amendments will be necessary within the new GSP regime aiming at limiting preferences to those countries which are more vulnerable. This concentration of graduation on the principal GSP beneficiaries constitutes a return to the very principles of graduation, as set out in the 1994 guidelines. These guidelines noted that the leading beneficiary countries dominated the Community's GSP, somewhat to the detriment of countries which had greater needed of its benefits. The second change of note concerns the conditions for granting the special incentive arrangements for the protection of the labour rights. The experience of requests submitted by some beneficiary countries has shown that, whatever their characteristics, the developing countries face specific obstacles in integrating and applying internationally agreed social standards (ILO standards). Accordingly, incentives in these arrangements should be bolstered, something which could be done temporarily, subject to evaluation of the beneficiary countries' progress in incorporating these standards into their legislation and practice. Other proposed changes include abandoning the annual publication of an opinion on the upcoming annual graduation in the Official Journal. Rather than being informative, this opinion sowsuncertainty and confusion since it concerns countries/sectors which are not necessarily those that will "graduate" (or "degraduate") when the actual Commission decision is adopted on the basis of statistical data for the three most recent years available. The evaluation of the arrangements for drugs, initially planned for the last year of the scheme's application (i.e. 2004) has to be deferred to the new last year of application of the procedure, which, as a result of this Regulation, will be 2005. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS : This Regulation does not involve new expenditure for the Community budget. It does, however, involve a loss of customs revenue. The loss of revenue would be maintained at EUR 2.262 billion for the year 2005. Application of the new Article 12(3) would increase this loss of revenue by only EUR146 million.