



| Basic information  |                     |
|--|---------------------|
| <p><b>2011/0322(NLE)</b></p> <p>NLE - Non-legislative enactments<br/>Decision</p>  | Procedure completed |
| <p>EU/Russia Agreement: administration of tariff-rate quotas applying to exports of wood; Protocol on technical modalities</p> <p>See also <a href="#">2012/0217(COD)</a></p> <p><b>Subject</b></p> <p>3.10.11 Forestry policy<br/>6.20.01 Agreements and relations in the context of the World Trade Organization (WTO)<br/>6.20.03 Bilateral economic and trade agreements and relations<br/>6.20.04 Union Customs Code, tariffs, preferential arrangements, rules of origin</p> <p><b>Geographical area</b></p> <p>Russian Federation</p> |                     |

| Key players                   |   |  |   |                  |
|-------------------------------|---|--|---|------------------|
| European Parliament           | <b>Committee responsible</b>                  |  | <b>Rapporteur</b>   | <b>Appointed</b> |
|                               | <b>INTA</b> International Trade               |  | VAIDERE Inese (PPE)   | 25/01/2012       |
|                               |   |  | Shadow rapporteur<br>CUTAŞ George Sabin (S&D)<br>KOCH-MEHRIN Silvana (ALDE)<br>TAYLOR Keith (Verts/ALE)<br>STURDY Robert (ECR)<br>SCHOLZ Helmut (GUE/NGL) |                  |
|                               | <b>Committee for opinion</b>                  |  | <b>Rapporteur for opinion</b>   | <b>Appointed</b> |
|                               | <b>AGRI</b> Agriculture and Rural Development |  | The committee decided not to give an opinion.   |                  |
| Council of the European Union | <b>Council configuration</b>                  |  | <b>Meetings</b>   | <b>Date</b>      |
|                               | General Affairs                               |  | 3210  | 2012-12-11       |
| European                      | <b>Commission DG</b>                          |  | <b>Commissioner</b>   |                  |

|            |                             |                |
|------------|-----------------------------|----------------|
| Commission | Trade and Economic Security | DE GUCHT Karel |
|------------|-----------------------------|----------------|

| Key events |   |  |         |
|------------|---|--|---------|
| Date       | Event   | Reference  | Summary |
| 10/11/2011 | Preparatory document  | COM(2011)0722<br> |         |
| 09/12/2011 | Initial legislative proposal published                          | 16775/2011   | Summary |
| 17/01/2012 | Committee referral announced in Parliament                      |  |         |
| 30/05/2012 | Vote in committee   |  |         |
| 01/06/2012 | Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading | A7-0177/2012   | Summary |
| 06/07/2012 | Legislative proposal published                                  | 16775/1/2011   |         |
| 21/11/2012 | Decision by Parliament  | T7-0439/2012   | Summary |
| 21/11/2012 | Results of vote in Parliament                                   |                   |         |
| 11/12/2012 | Act adopted by Council after consultation of Parliament         |  |         |
| 11/12/2012 | End of procedure in Parliament                                  |  |         |
| 19/12/2012 | Final act published in Official Journal                         |  |         |


| Technical information      |   |
|----------------------------|---|
| Procedure reference        | 2011/0322(NLE)  |
| Procedure type             | NLE - Non-legislative enactments  |
| Procedure subtype          | Consent by Parliament   |
| Legislative instrument     | Decision  |
| Amendments and repeals     | See also <a href="#">2012/0217(COD)</a>   |
| Legal basis                | Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union TFEU 218-p6a<br>Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union TFEU 207-p4 |
| Other legal basis          | Rules of Procedure EP 165   |
| Stage reached in procedure | Procedure completed   |
| Committee dossier          | INTA/7/07968  |

| Documentation gateway   |           |              |            |         |
|---|-----------|--------------|------------|---------|
| European Parliament   |           |              |            |         |
| Document type   | Committee | Reference    | Date       | Summary |
| Committee draft report  |           | PE486.173    | 02/04/2012 |         |
| Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading |           | A7-0177/2012 | 01/06/2012 | Summary |
| Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading          |           | T7-0439/2012 | 21/11/2012 | Summary |

## Council of the EU

| Document type                      | Reference                    | Date       | Summary                 |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------|------------|-------------------------|
| Initial legislative proposal       | <a href="#">16775/2011</a>   | 09/12/2011 | <a href="#">Summary</a> |
| Document attached to the procedure | <a href="#">16776/2011</a>   | 09/12/2011 |                         |
| Legislative proposal               | <a href="#">16775/1/2011</a> | 06/07/2012 |                         |

## European Commission

| Document type        | Reference  | Date       | Summary |
|----------------------|--|------------|---------|
| Preparatory document | <a href="#">COM(2011)0722</a><br> | 10/11/2011 |         |

## National parliaments

| Document type | Parliament /Chamber           | Reference                     | Date       | Summary |
|---------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------|---------|
| Contribution  | <a href="#">PT_PARLIAMENT</a> | <a href="#">COM(2011)0722</a> | 08/03/2012 |         |

## Additional information

| Source               | Document                | Date |
|----------------------|-------------------------|------|
| National parliaments | <a href="#">IPEX</a>    |      |
| European Commission  | <a href="#">EUR-Lex</a> |      |

## Final act

[Decision 2012/0793](#)  
[OJ L 349 19.12.2012, p. 0003](#)

[Summary](#)

# EU/Russia Agreement: administration of tariff-rate quotas applying to exports of wood; Protocol on technical modalities

2011/0322(NLE) - 09/12/2011 - Initial legislative proposal

**PURPOSE:** to conclude the Agreement in the form of an Exchange of Letters between the EU and Russia relating to the administration of tariff-rate quotas applying to exports of wood from the Russia to the EU and the Protocol between the EU and the Government of Russia on technical modalities pursuant to that Agreement.

**PROPOSED ACT:** Council Decision.

**BACKGROUND:** the Agreement in the form of an Exchange of Letters between the European Union and Russia relating to the administration of tariff-rate quotas applying to exports of wood from Russia to the European Union and the Protocol between the European Union and the Government of Russia on technical modalities pursuant to that Agreement, were signed and subject to their conclusion.

It is now necessary to approve the Agreement and the Protocol.

IMPACT ASSESSMENT: no impact assessment was carried out.

LEGAL BASE: the first subparagraph of Article 207(4) in conjunction with Article 218(6)(a) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU).

CONTENT: in the context of the process of its accession to the WTO, Russia has agreed to reduce its currently applied export duty rates on raw wood products. For certain types of wood, namely some **coniferous wood species**, Russia has agreed to open tariff-rate quotas for exports of those products and allocate a specific quota share to the EU. The quotas have been set at a level that is relatively large for the EU – at least in consideration of expected demand during the first periods of application. The export duty rates and tariff-rate quotas, as well as the share of those quotas allocated to exports to the EU, have been included in Russia's Schedule of Concessions, which will be annexed to Russia's WTO accession Protocol.

A bilateral agreement, in the form of an exchange of letters, negotiated between the EU and the Russian Federation establishes **general provisions on the implementation of the share of the tariff-rate quotas for exports of wood products concerned to the EU**. In particular, the Agreement provides that quantities of the EU share of the tariff-rate quotas shall be managed by the EU, and that the Russian Federation shall issue export licences based on the relevant import documentation issued by the EU.

The Agreement also provides for the elaboration by the EU and the Russian Federation of more detailed technical modalities on the management of the tariff-rate quotas by the entry into force of the Agreement. Such technical modalities are contained in a Protocol, negotiated between the EU and the Government of the Russian Federation (hereinafter referred to as the "Protocol"). The Protocol establishes the rules regarding the management of the export tariff-rate quotas and of exports within those quotas, including provisions on the cooperation of the competent authorities of the European Union and the Government of the Russian Federation necessary to ensure the adequate operation of the system.

In order to ensure the effective application of the management system provided for in the Agreement and the Protocol by the time of the accession of the Russian Federation to the WTO, the Agreement and the Protocol should be applied provisionally from the date of such accession.

**Implementing provisions:** in order to ensure uniform conditions for the implementation of the provisions of the Agreement and the Protocol regarding the management of the tariff-rate quotas applying to exports of wood from the Russian Federation to the Union, implementing powers should be conferred on the Commission. Those powers should be exercised in accordance with [Regulation \(EU\) No 182/2011](#) of the European Parliament and of the Council laying down the rules and general principles concerning mechanisms for control by the Member States of the Commission's exercise of implementing powers.

BUDGET IMPLICATION: the proposal has no implication for the EU budget.

## **EU/Russia Agreement: administration of tariff-rate quotas applying to exports of wood; Protocol on technical modalities**

2011/0322(NLE) - 01/06/2012 - Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading

The Committee on International Trade adopted the report drafted by Inese VAIDERE (EPP, LV) in which it recommends the European Parliament to give its consent to the conclusion of the Agreement in the form of an Exchange of Letters between the European Union and the Russian Federation relating to the administration of tariff-rate quotas applying to exports of wood from the Russian Federation to the European Union and the Protocol between the European Union and the Government of the Russian Federation on technical modalities pursuant to that Agreement.

Members recall that the EU has a strong offensive interest in this agreement as it **provides for significant improvement in the supply of wood from Russia**. It is paramount to avoid recurrence of the consecutive increases of wood export duties applied by Russia since 2007 which affected many EU producers. The agreement brings more predictability and better trade conditions.

## **EU/Russia Agreement: administration of tariff-rate quotas applying to exports of wood; Protocol on technical modalities**

2011/0322(NLE) - 21/11/2012 - Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading

The European Parliament adopted a legislative resolution on the draft Council decision on the conclusion of the Agreement in the form of an Exchange of Letters between the European Union and the Russian Federation relating to the administration of tariff-rate quotas applying to exports of wood from the Russian Federation to the European Union and the Protocol between the EU and the Government of the Russian Federation on technical modalities pursuant to that Agreement.

Parliament gave its consent to conclusion of the Agreement and of the Protocol.

## **EU/Russia Agreement: administration of tariff-rate quotas applying to exports of wood; Protocol on technical modalities**

2011/0322(NLE) - 11/12/2012 - Final act

**PURPOSE:** to conclude the Agreement in the form of an Exchange of Letters between the EU and Russia relating to the administration of tariff-rate quotas applying to exports of wood from the Russia to the EU and the Protocol between the EU and the Government of Russia on technical modalities pursuant to that Agreement.

**NON-LEGISLATIVE ACT:** Council Decision 2012/793/EU on the conclusion of the Agreement in the form of an Exchange of Letters between the European Union and the Russian Federation relating to the administration of tariff-rate quotas applying to exports of wood from the Russian Federation to the European Union and the Protocol between the European Union and the Government of the Russian Federation on technical modalities pursuant to that Agreement.

**BACKGROUND:** in accordance with Council Decision 2012/105/EU, the Agreement in the [form of an Exchange of Letters](#) between the European Union and Russia relating to the administration of tariff-rate quotas applying to exports of wood from Russia to the EU and the Protocol between the EU and Russia on technical modalities pursuant to that Agreement, were signed on 16 December 2011, subject to their conclusion.

The Agreement and the Protocol should now be approved on behalf of the EU.

**CONTENT:** with this Decision, the Agreement in the form of an Exchange of Letters between the European Union and the Russian Federation relating to the administration of tariff-rate quotas applying to exports of wood from the Russian Federation to the European Union, and the Protocol between the European Union and the Government of the Russian Federation on technical modalities pursuant to that Agreement are hereby approved on behalf of the Union.

**Principles:** in the context of the process of its accession to the WTO, Russia has agreed to reduce its currently applied export duty rates on raw wood products. For certain types of wood, namely **some coniferous wood species**, Russia has agreed to open tariff-rate quotas for exports of those products and allocate a specific quota share to the EU. The quotas have been set at a level that is relatively large for the EU – at least in consideration of expected demand during the first periods of application. The export duty rates and tariff-rate quotas, as well as the share of those quotas allocated to exports to the EU, have been included in Russia's Schedule of Concessions, which will be annexed to Russia's WTO accession Protocol.

A bilateral agreement, in the form of an exchange of letters, negotiated between the EU and the Russian Federation establishes general provisions on **the implementation of the share of the tariff-rate quotas for exports of wood products concerned to the EU**. In particular, the Agreement provides that quantities of the EU share of the tariff-rate quotas shall be managed by the EU, and that the Russian Federation shall issue export licences based on the relevant import documentation issued by the EU.

The Agreement also provides for the elaboration by the EU and Russia [more detailed technical modalities on the management of the tariff-rate quotas](#) by the entry into force of the Agreement. Such technical modalities are contained in a Protocol, negotiated between the EU and Russia. The Protocol establishes the rules regarding the management of the export tariff-rate quotas and of exports within those quotas, including provisions on the cooperation of the competent authorities of the European Union and the Government of the Russian Federation necessary to ensure the adequate operation of the system.

**Provisional application:** in order to ensure the effective application of the management system provided for in the Agreement and the Protocol by the time of the accession of the Russian Federation to the WTO, the Agreement and the Protocol should be applied provisionally from the date of such accession.

**Implementation conditions:** in order to ensure uniform conditions for the implementation of the provisions of the Agreement and the Protocol regarding the management of the tariff-rate quotas applying to exports of wood from the Russian Federation to the Union, implementing powers should be conferred on the Commission. Those powers should be exercised in accordance with [Regulation \(EU\) No 182/2011](#) of the European Parliament and of the Council laying down the rules and general principles concerning mechanisms for control by the Member States of the Commission's exercise of implementing powers.

**ENTRY INTO FORCE:** this Decision shall enter into force on 11 December 2012. The date of entry into force of the Agreement and the Protocol will be published in the Official Journal of the European Union by the General Secretariat of the Council.