Basic information

2013/0325(COD) COD - Ordinary legislative procedure (ex-codecision procedure) Regulation	Procedure completed
Autonomous trade preferences for Moldova **Subject** 3.10.06.08 Wine, alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages 6.20.03 Bilateral economic and trade agreements and relations 6.20.04 Union Customs Code, tariffs, preferential arrangements, rules of origin **Geographical area** Moldova	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
INTA International Trade	WINKLER Iuliu (PPE)	14/10/2013
	Shadow rapporteur CUTAȘ George Sabin (S&D) ANDERSDOTTER Amelia (Verts/ALE) MUSCARDINI Cristiana (ECR) (THE EARL OF) DARTMOUTH William (EFD)	

Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
AFET Foreign Affairs	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
AGRI Agriculture and Rural Development	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	

Council of the European Union

Council configuration	Meetings	Date
Agriculture and Fisheries	3285	2013-12-16

European

Commission DG	Commissioner

Commission	Agriculture and Rural Development	CIOLOŞ Dacian

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
25/09/2013	Legislative proposal published	COM(2013)0678	Summary
08/10/2013	Committee referral announced in Parliament, 1st reading		
28/11/2013	Vote in committee, 1st reading		
02/12/2013	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading	A7-0422/2013	Summary
10/12/2013	Decision by Parliament, 1st reading	T7-0521/2013	Summary
10/12/2013	Results of vote in Parliament		
16/12/2013	Act adopted by Council after Parliament's 1st reading		
16/12/2013	End of procedure in Parliament		
17/12/2013	Final act signed		
28/12/2013	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2013/0325(COD)
Procedure type	COD - Ordinary legislative procedure (ex-codecision procedure)
Procedure subtype	Legislation
Legislative instrument	Regulation
Legal basis	Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union TFEU 207-p2
Other legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 165
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	INTA/7/14089

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee draft report		PE521.592	16/10/2013	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE522.982	07/11/2013	
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading		A7-0422/2013	02/12/2013	Summary
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading		T7-0521/2013	10/12/2013	Summary

Council of the EU

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Draft final act	00111/2013/LEX	17/12/2013	

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Legislative proposal	COM(2013)0678	25/09/2013	Summary
Commission response to text adopted in plenary	SP(2014)148	13/02/2014	

Additional information

Source	Document	Date
National parliaments	IPEX	
European Commission	EUR-Lex	

Final act

Regulation 2013/1384
OJ L 354 28.12.2013, p. 0085 Summary

Autonomous trade preferences for Moldova

2013/0325(COD) - 25/09/2013 - Legislative proposal

PURPOSE : to fully liberalise import of wine from Moldova into the EU.

PROPOSED ACT : Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council

BACKGROUND : Council Regulation (EC) No 55/20082 established a specific scheme of autonomous trade preferences (ATPs) for Moldova, which gives all products originating in Moldova free access to the Union market, except for certain agricultural products listed in Annex I to that Regulation. For the latter, limited concessions have been granted either in the form of exemption from customs duties within the limit of tariff quotas or of reduction of customs duties.

In June 2013, the EU finalised negotiations with Moldova on the Association Agreement, including the establishment of a deep and comprehensive free trade area (DCFTA). In the framework of those negotiations, **the Parties have proposed to fully liberalise the bilateral trade in wine.** Moldova is currently experiencing difficulties with wine exports to some of its traditional markets, which threatens its economic recovery and the reform process that is vigorously pursued by the Moldovan government. The agricultural sector represents around 40 % of Moldova's economy and the wine sector is an important part of it, providing employment to some 300,000 people (one fourth of the working population), who mainly live in rural areas and cultivate medium to smaller family plots.

The import of wine from Moldova into the Union should be liberalised without delay.

LEGAL BASIS : Article 207(2) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union.

IMPACT ASSESSMENT : no impact assessment was undertaken

CONTENT : the draft regulation proposes to fully liberalise import of wine from Moldova into the EU **by amending Council Regulation (EC) 55/20081 and removing wine from Table 1 of Annex I.** Accordingly, in the table in point 1 of Annex I to Regulation (EC) No 55/2008, the last row concerning order No 09.0514 "Wine of fresh grapes other than sparkling wine" will be deleted.

It should be noted that the WTO waiver for the tariff preferences granted to Moldova does not cover the additional preferences for wine envisaged by the proposed regulation. Moreover, the waiver will expire on 31 December 2013. Accordingly, the EU should request pursuant to paragraph 3 of Article IX of the WTO Agreement the necessary extension and amendment of the scope of the existing waiver of its obligations under Article I and Article XIII of the GATT 1994 to the extent necessary to permit the EU to afford duty-free preferential treatment to wine originating in Moldova, without being required to extend the same duty-free treatment to like products of any other WTO Member. **A Commission proposal to request the extension of the waiver is already pending before the Council.**

BUDGETARY IMPLICATIONS: the proposed Regulation does not incur costs charged to the EU budget. As the general level of wine imports from Moldova is merely 0.6% of all EU wine imports further market opening is not expected to create negative effects for the EU.

Autonomous trade preferences for Moldova

2013/0325(COD) - 02/12/2013 - Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading

The Committee on International Trade adopted the report by Iuliu WINKLER (EPP, RO) on the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Council Regulation (EC) No 55/2008 introducing autonomous trade preferences for the Republic of Moldova.

The committee recommended that the European Parliament's position adopted at first reading, following the ordinary legislative procedure, should amend the Commission proposal as follows:

Waiver granted by the WTO: Article 16 par. 3, 4 and 5 of Regulation (EC) 55//2008 refers to the WTO waiver granted to the EU in order to **allow for a preferential treatment of imports of certain goods from Moldova**. The current waiver will expire on 31 December 2013. The Commission submitted to the WTO a request to extend the existing waiver until 31 December 2015. Pending the WTO decision, Members considered it important to ensure the undisrupted trade flows from Moldova, thereby providing legal certainty for the economic operators. Members considered that the references to the WTO waiver should therefore be deleted from the Regulation.

Application: having regard to the time constraints for the adoption of the amending Regulation, Members considered it important to ensure that it enters into force as soon as possible after the publication. They proposed setting the date of application for **1 January 2014**.

Autonomous trade preferences for Moldova

2013/0325(COD) - 17/12/2013 - Final act

PURPOSE: to fully liberalise import of wine from Moldova into the EU.

LEGISLATIVE ACT: Regulation (EU) No 1384/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Council Regulation (EC) No 55/2008 introducing autonomous trade preferences for the Republic of Moldova.

BACKGROUND: Council Regulation (EC) No 55/20082 established a specific scheme of autonomous trade preferences (ATPs) for Moldova, which gives all products originating in Moldova free access to the Union market, except for certain agricultural products listed in Annex I to that Regulation. For the latter, limited concessions have been granted either in the form of exemption from customs duties within the limit of tariff quotas or of reduction of customs duties.

Negotiations on a new Association Agreement, including **the establishment of a deep and comprehensive free trade area between the Union and Moldova**, started in January 2010 and were finalised in July 2013. That Agreement provides for the full liberalisation of bilateral trade in wine.

In order to support the efforts of Moldova in accordance with the ENP and the Eastern Partnership, and to provide an attractive and reliable market for its wine exports, the import of wine from Moldova into the Union should be liberalised without delay.

Regulation (EC) No 55/2008 should therefore be amended accordingly.

CONTENT: the Regulation proposes solely to fully liberalise import of wine from Moldova into the EU by amending Council Regulation (EC) 55/2008 and removing wine from Table 1 of Annex I of the 2008 Regulation. Accordingly, in the table in point 1 of Annex I to Regulation (EC) No 55/2008, the last row concerning order No 09.0514 "Wine of fresh grapes other than sparkling wine" will be deleted.

ENTRY INTO FORCE: 29.12.2013. The Regulation is applicable from 1 January 2014.

Autonomous trade preferences for Moldova

2013/0325(COD) - 10/12/2013 - Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading

The European Parliament adopted by 503 votes to 14, with 17 abstentions, a legislative resolution on the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Council Regulation (EC) No 55/2008 introducing autonomous trade preferences for the Republic of Moldova.

Parliament adopted its position at first reading following the ordinary legislative procedure. The amendment adopted in plenary are the result of a compromise negotiated between the European Parliament and the Council:

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Preferential treatment of imports of certain goods from Moldova: Article 16 par. 3, 4 and 5 of Regulation (EC) 55//2008 refers to the WTO waiver granted to the EU in order to **allow for a preferential treatment of imports of certain goods from Moldova**. The current waiver will expire on 31 December 2013. The Commission submitted to the WTO a request to extend the existing waiver until 31 December 2015. Pending the WTO decision, it is provided to ensure the undisrupted trade flows from Moldova, thereby providing legal certainty for the economic operators. Consequently, the references to the WTO waiver should therefore be deleted from the Regulation.

- **Application**: having regard to the time constraints for the adoption of the amending Regulation, it is requested that the draft Regulation enter into force as soon as possible after the publication. They proposed setting the date of application for **1 January 2014**.