Basic information

2014/0250(COD) COD - Ordinary legislative procedure (ex-codecision procedure) Regulation	Procedure completed
Autonomous trade preferences for Moldova **Subject** 3.10.06.01 Fruit, citrus fruits 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	MOISĂ Sorin (S&D)	24/09/2014
	Shadow rapporteur WINKLER Iuliu (PPE) ZAHRADIL Jan (ECR) REHN Olli (ALDE) SCHOLZ Helmut (GUE/NGL) JADOT Yannick (Verts/ALE)	

Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
AGRI Agriculture and Rural Development	REBEGA Laurenţiu (S&D)	06/10/2014

Council of the European Union

European Commission

Commission DG	Commissioner
Trade and Economic Security	DE GUCHT Karel

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
01/09/2014	Legislative proposal published	COM(2014)0542	Summary
15/09/2014	Committee referral announced in Parliament, 1st reading		
04/12/2014	Vote in committee, 1st reading		
05/12/2014	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading	A8-0053/2014	Summary
16/12/2014	Debate in Parliament		
17/12/2014	Decision by Parliament, 1st reading	T8-0086/2014	Summary
17/12/2014	Results of vote in Parliament		
18/12/2014	Act adopted by Council after Parliament's 1st reading		
18/12/2014	Final act signed		
18/12/2014	End of procedure in Parliament		
30/12/2014	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2014/0250(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/8/01036

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee draft report		PE539.749	16/10/2014	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE541.612	13/11/2014	
Committee opinion	AGRI	PE539.868	03/12/2014	
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading		A8-0053/2014	05/12/2014	Summary
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading		T8-0086/2014	17/12/2014	Summary

Council of the EU

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary

Draft final act	00095/2014/LEX	18/12/2014	

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Legislative proposal	COM(2014)0542	01/09/2014	Summary

Additional information

Source	Document	Date
European Commission	EUR-Lex	

Final act

Regulation 2014/1383
OJ L 372 30.12.2014, p. 0001 Summary

Autonomous trade preferences for Moldova

2014/0250(COD) - 18/12/2014 - Final act

PURPOSE: to further liberalising imports of certain products of the fruit and vegetables sector from Moldova into the EU.

LEGISLATIVE ACT: Regulation (EU) No 1383/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Council Regulation (EC) No 55/2008 introducing autonomous trade preferences for the Republic of Moldova.

CONTENT: the Regulation amends Council Regulation (EC) No 55/2008 with a view to **further liberalising imports of certain products of the fruit and vegetables sector from Moldova into the EU**.

In order to support Moldova's efforts in accordance with the objectives set out in the ENP, the Eastern Partnership and the Association Agreement between Moldova and the EU on 27 June 2014, the amendment introduced three new duty free tariff quotas for its exports of **fresh apples** (40 000 tonnes), **fresh plums and fresh table grapes** (10 000 for each product).

In view of the seasonal production peak of those products, it is appropriate to apply the further concessions from 1 August 2014. The specific scheme of autonomous trade preferences will continue to apply until 31 December 2015.

ENTRY INTO FORCE: 30.12.2014.

APPLICATION: as from 01.08.2014.

Autonomous trade preferences for Moldova

2014/0250(COD) - 05/12/2014 - Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading

The Committee on International Trade adopted the report by Sorin MOISĂ (S&D, 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.

It recommended the European Parliament to adopt its position at first reading, taking over the Commission proposal.

In recent years, the EU and Moldova intensified their political and economic relations notably through the conclusion of an Association Agreement. The Agreement, signed on 27 June 2014, includes a trade pillar, which will lead to the creation of a "**Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area**" (DCFTA) between the Parties. The DCFTA has been provisionally applied since 1 September 2014.

Due to the intensification of economic and political relations between the EU and Moldova, **a politically motivated import ban was imposed as of 21 July 2014 by Russia on agricultural products from Moldova**. The ban is hurting Moldova's economy in a significant way - agriculture represents around 40% of Moldova's economy.

Seeking some relief and support at this critical juncture, the Moldovan authorities have turned to the EU, requesting urgent support to reduce the economic impact of the Russian ban, in particular for the most important products for Moldovan fruit growers: apples, plums and table grapes.

Consequently, as an act of solidarity, the Commission proposed to amend the Autonomous trade preferences Regulation (ATP Regulation) by introducing three new duty-free tariff rate quotas (TRQs) in addition to the TRQs proposed under the DCFTA.

The total imports from Moldova of these products will have a negligible impact on the EU budget. In light of this, Members called on the European Parliament to approve the Commission proposal without amendments.

Autonomous trade preferences for Moldova

2014/0250(COD) - 01/09/2014 - Legislative proposal

PURPOSE: to amend Council Regulation (EC) No 55/2008 with a view to further liberalising imports of certain products of the fruit and vegetables sector from Moldova into the EU.

ROLE OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT: the European Parliament decides in accordance with the ordinary legislative procedure and on an equal footing with the Council.

BACKGROUND: Council Regulation (EC) No 55/2008 established a specific scheme of autonomous trade preferences (ATPs) for Moldova. That scheme gives all products originating in the Republic of Moldova free access to the Union market, except for certain agricultural products listed in Annex I to that Regulation for which 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 the framework of the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP), the EU-Moldova ENP Action Plan, and the Eastern Partnership, Moldova has adopted an **ambitious agenda for political association** and further economic integration with the Union.

The Association Agreement, including the establishment of a Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area (DCFTA) between the Union and Moldova was signed on 27 June 2014 and will apply provisionally from 1 September 2014. The specific scheme of autonomous trade preferences will continue to apply until 31 December 2015.

Recently Moldova has experienced and continues to experience difficulties with its fruit and vegetables exports to some of its traditional markets, which threaten its economic recovery and the reform process that is vigorously pursued by the government of Moldova. The agricultural sector represents around 40 per cent of Moldova's economy and the horticultural sector is an important part of it, providing employment to some 250 000 people (i.e. around 10% of the active population). Moreover, horticultural export levels have fallen in recent years.

Taking into consideration the current temporary severe difficulties in accessing Moldova's traditional export markets for a number of products, the European Commission proposes to **increase temporarily its fully liberalised market access for imports of these products** from Moldova, allowing their commercialisation in the Union.

CONTENT: in order to support the efforts of Moldova in accordance with the objectives set out in the ENP, the Eastern Partnership and the Association Agreement, the proposed amendment to Council Regulation (EC) No 55/2008 introduces three new duty free tariff quotas for fresh apples, fresh table grapes and fresh plums.

As the Autonomous Trade Preference scheme expires at the end of 2015, this amendment provides for a time-limited response to the immediate needs for the key export products adversely affected (i.e. apples, plums and table grapes).

BUDGETARY IMPLICATIONS: the proposed amendment to the Regulation incurs **negligible** implications for the EU budget. The total imports from Moldova to the EU in 2013 constituted 0.1% of the total imports to the EU. Whereas about 90% of all imports from Moldova enter the EU duty-free, imports of fresh apples, fresh plums and fresh table grapes under entry price from the Republic of Moldova represented less than 0.01% of the total EU imports from the world of these products.

The corresponding loss of tariff revenue should therefore have a limited impact on the EU’s own resources.

Autonomous trade preferences for Moldova

2014/0250(COD) - 17/12/2014 - Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading

The European Parliament adopted by 551 votes to 67, with 23 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 without making amendments to the Commission proposal.

The proposal seeks to amend Council Regulation (EC) No 55/2008 with a view to further liberalising imports of certain products of the fruit and vegetables sector from Moldova into the EU.

In order to support the efforts of Moldova in accordance with the objectives set out in the European Neighbourhood Policy, the Eastern Partnership and the Association Agreement signed between Moldova and the EU on 27 June 2014, the amended proposal introduces three new duty free tariff quotas for fresh apples, fresh table grapes and fresh plums.