

Basic information	
2017/0159(NLE) NLE - Non-legislative enactments	Procedure completed, awaiting publication in Official Journal
Withdrawal of the European Union from the International Rubber Study Group (IRSG) Subject 6.20.05 Multilateral and plurilateral economic and trade agreements and relations	

Key players				
European Parliament	Committee responsible		Rapporteur	Appointed
	 International Trade		Chair on behalf of committee LANGE Bernd (S&D)	24/09/2025
	Former committee responsible		Former rapporteur	Appointed
	 International Trade			
	 International Trade			
Council of the European Union				
European Commission	Commission DG		Commissioner	
	Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs		BIEŃKOWSKA Elżbieta	

Key events			
Date	Event	Reference	Summary
18/07/2017	Preparatory document	COM(2017)0378	Summary
17/09/2025	Legislative proposal published	11951/2025	
24/09/2025	Vote in committee		
03/10/2025	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading	A10-0186/2025	
06/10/2025	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
08/10/2025	Decision by Parliament	T10-0216/2025	Summary
08/10/2025	Results of vote in Parliament		

27/10/2025	Act adopted by Council after consultation of Parliament		
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Technical information	
Procedure reference	2017/0159(NLE)
Procedure type	NLE - Non-legislative enactments
Procedure subtype	Consent by Parliament
Legal basis	Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union TFEU 218-p6a Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union TFEU 207-p3 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, awaiting publication in Official Journal
Committee dossier	INTA/10/00106

Documentation gateway				
European Parliament				
Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading		A10-0186/2025	03/10/2025	
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading		T10-0216/2025	08/10/2025	Summary
Council of the EU				
Document type	Reference	Date	Summary	
Legislative proposal	11951/2025	17/09/2025		
European Commission				
Document type	Reference	Date	Summary	
Preparatory document	COM(2017)0378	18/07/2017	Summary	

Additional information		
Source	Document	Date
European Commission	EUR-Lex	

Withdrawal of the European Union from the International Rubber Study Group (IRSG)

2017/0159(NLE) - 18/07/2017 - Preparatory document

PURPOSE: to propose the withdrawal of the European Union from the International Rubber Study Group.

PROPOSED ACT: Council Decision.

ROLE OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT: Council may adopt the act only if Parliament has given its consent to the act.

BACKGROUND: the International Rubber Study Group (IRSG) is an intergovernmental organisation established in 1944 and composed of rubber producing and consuming stakeholders. It provides a forum for the discussion on supply and demand issues for both natural and synthetic rubber.

By Council Decision 2002/651/EC, the European Community became a member of the IRSG. The accession of the EU as a single member dates back to 1 July 2011.

During the preparation of the amended IRSG constitution in 2011, the Commission has repeatedly stressed its concern on the **limited and declining relevance of IRSG** following the withdrawal in 2010-2011 of important member countries (USA, Thailand, Malaysia).

IRSG's current membership is representative of only about 10% of the world production and 25% of the world consumption of natural rubber, respectively.

In its [resolution](#) approving Council Decision 2012/283/EU on 2011 constitution, the European Parliament asked the Commission to work on the expansion of the membership of the International Rubber Study Group.

Therefore, the Commission called upon IRSG and its other members as well as industry to encourage non-member governments to join IRSG. However, despite repeated efforts by the IRSG Secretariat in the last four years, none of the potential new members that have been approached gave any reliable indication that they would be prepared to join the Group. There are no reasonable perspectives of this situation being reversed.

During a period marked by significant increases in natural rubber prices (mid-2008 to mid-2011), the IRSG was considered by industry as a tool to control excessive volatility in commodity prices. This argument is no longer valid given that the largest producers are no longer represented in the IRSG and that natural rubber prices have fallen to less than half the record level reached six years ago.

The Commission questions whether membership in IRSG remains a priority in the context of increasing budget restrictions and new challenges. This concern is reinforced by increasing membership fees, which are the consequence of the reduced number of member governments. For the financial year 2016/17, the EU contribution to the IRSG's budget was EUR 132 000 and will increase to EUR 135 000 for the next financial year (2017-2018).

For these reasons, the Commission considers that the EU should withdraw from the International Rubber Study Group.

CONTENT: the Commission proposes that the European Union **withdraws from the International Rubber Study Group**. It considers that the withdrawal of the EU is necessary in order to put an end to annual budgetary expenses that bring limited benefits, lower than those expected at the time when the European Community joined the IRSG.

BUDGETARY IMPLICATIONS: by withdrawing from the IRSG, the Union could **save over EUR 150 000 in annual contributions**, as well as the human and logistical resources needed to manage membership.

Withdrawal of the European Union from the International Rubber Study Group (IRSG)

2017/0159(NLE) - 08/10/2025 - Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading

The European Parliament adopted by 594 votes to 38, with 2 abstentions, a legislative resolution on the draft Council decision concerning the withdrawal of the European Union from the International Rubber Study Group (IRSG).

Parliament **gave its consent** to the European Union's withdrawal from the IRSG.

The International Rubber Study Group (IRSG), established in 1944, is an intergovernmental organisation whose objectives are to provide a forum for the discussion of problems affecting the production, consumption and trade of both natural and synthetic rubber, and to collect and disseminate comprehensive statistical information on the world rubber industry.

Since 1 July 2011, only the Union has been a member of the IRSG. In recent years, the withdrawal of key member countries has had a negative impact on the IRSG. It has therefore become an international organisation of limited and declining relevance. Currently, IRSG members represent only about 10% of global production and 25% of global consumption of natural rubber.

As a consequence of the reduced number of Member Governments and the depletion of the Group's cash reserves, the EU's contribution to the IRSG's budget is significant and rising.

The maintenance of a membership to an inter-governmental organisation of limited and declining relevance would be inappropriate and inefficient.