Basic information

2017/0259(NLE) NLE - Non-legislative enactments	Procedure completed
EU/Norway agreement: additional trade preferences in agricultural products **Subject** 3.10.03 Marketing and trade of agricultural products and livestock 6.20.03 Bilateral economic and trade agreements and relations **Geographical area** Norway	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
INTA International Trade	BEGHIN Tiziana (EFDD)	22/11/2017
	Shadow rapporteur PABRIKS Artis (PPE) DANTI Nicola (S&D) STARBATTY Joachim (ECR) SCHAAKE Marietje (ALDE) KOULOGLOU Stelios (GUE/NGL) HAUTALA Heidi (Verts/ALE)	

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

Council of the European Union

Council configuration	Meetings	Date
General Affairs	3615	2018-05-14
General Affairs	3578	2017-11-20

European Commission

Commission DG	Commissioner
Agriculture and Rural Development	HOGAN Phil

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
17/10/2017	Preparatory document	COM(2017)0595	Summary
13/11/2017	Legislative proposal published	13357/2017	Summary
14/12/2017	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
22/03/2018	Vote in committee		
28/03/2018	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading	A8-0126/2018	Summary
17/04/2018	Decision by Parliament	T8-0094/2018	Summary
17/04/2018	Results of vote in Parliament		
14/05/2018	Act adopted by Council after consultation of Parliament		
14/05/2018	End of procedure in Parliament		
25/05/2018	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2017/0259(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-p4
Other legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 165
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	INTA/8/11348

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee draft report		PE615.261	25/01/2018	
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading		A8-0126/2018	28/03/2018	Summary
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading		T8-0094/2018	17/04/2018	Summary

Council of the EU

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Legislative proposal	13357/2017	13/11/2017	Summary

Document attached to the procedure	13471/2017	13/11/2017	

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Preparatory document	COM(2017)0595	17/10/2017	Summary
Document attached to the procedure	COM(2017)0596	17/10/2017	

Additional information

Source	Document	Date
European Commission	EUR-Lex	

Final act

Decision 2018/0760
OJ L 129 25.05.2018, p. 0001 Summary

EU/Norway agreement: additional trade preferences in agricultural products

2017/0259(NLE) - 17/10/2017

PURPOSE: to conclude an agreement in the form of an exchange of letters between the European Union and Norway concerning additional trade preferences in agricultural products.

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 EU and Norway are **signatories to the Agreement on the European Economic Area (EEA Agreement)** which provides for the free movement of goods, with the exception of agricultural and fisheries products.

Article 19 of the EEA Agreement provides that the contracting Parties undertake to continue their efforts to **achieve progressive liberalisation of trade in agricultural products**.

The previous agreement in the form of an exchange of letters liberalising trade in agricultural products between Norway and the European Union was signed on 15 April 2011. It provided for mutual tariff rate quotas and reductions in duty. It also included an undertaking by the Parties to resume bilateral negotiations in two years' time.

The 2011 EU-Norway bilateral agricultural trade agreement increased the duty-free access of EU agricultural products to the Norwegian market to **around 60 % of trade**.

Therefore, the latest round of negotiations aimed at: (i) increasing the degree of liberalisation on both sides; (ii) increasing the current tariff rate quotas; and (iii) opening new tariff rate quotas for additional agricultural products; (iv) addressing certain pending trade irritants.

CONTENT: the Commission proposes that the Council adopt a decision approving, on behalf of the European Union, **the Agreement in the form of an exchange of letters** between the European Union and Norway concerning additional trade preferences in agricultural products.

The Agreement provides for **further trade preferences** for trade in **agricultural products**, including additional fully liberalised tariff lines.

For more sensitive products such as meat, dairy, vegetables and ornamental plants, additional or new tariff quotas have been agreed upon.

The deepening of trade relations with Norway fits into the overall context of EU trade policy and is **beneficial for the EU** since the EU is a net exporter of basic agricultural products to Norway.

The main products exported by the EU are wines and vinegar, animal feed, soya and colza oil, live plants and cheese.

Imports into the EU from Norway are mainly soybean, animal and vegetable oils and their residues, fur skins and undenatured ethyl alcohol.

BUDGETARY IMPLICATIONS: this Agreement will have no impact on the expenditure side of the EU budget. The new concessions granted on imports from Norway will likely result in a reduction of own resources through a lower collection of customs duties.

EU/Norway agreement: additional trade preferences in agricultural products

2017/0259(NLE) - 17/04/2018 - Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading

The European Parliament adopted by 652 votes to 10, with 22 abstentions, a legislative resolution on the draft Council decision on the conclusion of an Agreement in the form of an exchange of letters between the European Union and the Kingdom of Norway concerning additional trade preferences in agricultural products.

Parliament **gave its consent** to the conclusion of the agreement.

The agreement will provide **new trade opportunities** for EU exporters and deepen trade relations between the EU and Norway. It seeks to increase the degree of liberalisation further, enlarging the current tariff rate quotas, opening new tariff rate quotas for additional agricultural products and addressing certain pending trade irritants.

EU/Norway agreement: additional trade preferences in agricultural products

2017/0259(NLE) - 28/03/2018 - Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading

The Committee on International Trade adopted the report by Tiziana BEGHIN (EFDD, IT) on the draft Council decision on the conclusion of an Agreement in the form of an exchange of letters between the European Union and the Kingdom of Norway concerning additional trade preferences in agricultural products.

The committee recommended that the European Parliament **give its consent** to the conclusion of the agreement.

As stated in the explanatory statement accompanying the recommendation, the proposed agreement will offer **new trade opportunities** for EU exporters and deepen trade relations between the EU and Norway. It seeks to increase the degree of liberalisation further, enlarging the current tariff rate quotas, opening new tariff rate quotas for additional agricultural products and addressing certain pending trade irritants.

Under the new agreement, both parties agreed to **mutually grant duty free access to 36 new tariff lines**. These include live horses, certain animal products and types of offal, plants, vegetables for feed purposes, provisionally preserved vegetables, fruit, berries and nuts, algae, certain sugars, fruit juices and fermented beverages.

Norway is the **EU's 7th most important partner** for trade in goods. While Norway's overall trade with the EU shows a surplus, in trade of basic agricultural products balance is much in favour of the EU, with the EU exports in 2016 reaching EUR 2 495 million against EUR 307 million imports from Norway.

The agreement represents a **step towards engaging on liberalising agricultural trade between the EU and Norway further**, in particular trade in processed agricultural products which is hindered by high customs tariffs in Norway and towards resuming negotiations on geographical indications.

EU/Norway agreement: additional trade preferences in agricultural products

2017/0259(NLE) - 13/11/2017 - Legislative proposal

PURPOSE: to conclude an Agreement in the form of an exchange of letters between the European Union and Norway concerning additional trade preferences in agricultural products.

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: as a reminder, the EU and Norway are signatories to the Agreement on the European Economic Area (EEA Agreement) which provides for the free movement of goods, with the exception of agricultural and fisheries products.

Article 19 of the Agreement on the European Economic Area provides that the Contracting Parties undertake to continue their efforts with a view to achieving progressive liberalisation of agricultural trade.

In accordance with a Council Decision, the Agreement in the form of an exchange of letters between the EU and Norway concerning additional trade preferences in agricultural products was signed, subject to its conclusion.

It is now necessary to approve this Agreement.

CONTENT: the Council is called on to approve, on behalf of the Union, the Agreement in the form of an exchange of letters between the European Union and the Kingdom of Norway concerning additional trade preferences in agricultural products.

The Agreement reached following two years of negotiations will grant mutual duty-free access for 36 tariff lines, including for example various types of live plants, corn for feed, various berries and fermented beverages such as perry and cider.

As regards products such as meat, dairy, grains, vegetables and ornamental plants, Norway will grant the EU tariff quotas. In particular, Norway will offer in the meat sector an additional 1600-ton quota for bovine meat and smaller quotas for EU chicken and duck meat, pork, hams and sausages.

In the dairy sector Norway will open an additional 1200-ton quota for cheese.

As regards the remaining sectors Norway will offer additional market opening for EU ornamental plants, maize and lettuce.

The EU will reciprocate by opening a 700-ton quota for various types of chicken meat, a quota for preserved meat and offal. In the dairy sector the EU will offer Norway quotas for dried milk albumin and whey products.

EU/Norway agreement: additional trade preferences in agricultural products

2017/0259(NLE) - 17/10/2017 - Preparatory document

PURPOSE: to conclude an agreement in the form of an exchange of letters between the European Union and Norway concerning additional trade preferences in agricultural products.

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 EU and Norway are **signatories to the Agreement on the European Economic Area (EEA Agreement)** which provides for the free movement of goods, with the exception of agricultural and fisheries products.

Article 19 of the EEA Agreement provides that the contracting Parties undertake to continue their efforts to **achieve progressive liberalisation of trade in agricultural products**.

The previous agreement in the form of an exchange of letters liberalising trade in agricultural products between Norway and the European Union was signed on 15 April 2011. It provided for mutual tariff rate quotas and reductions in duty. It also included an undertaking by the Parties to resume bilateral negotiations in two years' time.

The 2011 EU-Norway bilateral agricultural trade agreement increased the duty-free access of EU agricultural products to the Norwegian market to **around 60 % of trade**.

Therefore, the latest round of negotiations aimed at: (i) increasing the degree of liberalisation on both sides; (ii) increasing the current tariff rate quotas; and (iii) opening new tariff rate quotas for additional agricultural products; (iv) addressing certain pending trade irritants.

CONTENT: the Commission proposes that the Council adopt a decision approving, on behalf of the European Union, **the Agreement in the form of an exchange of letters** between the European Union and Norway concerning additional trade preferences in agricultural products.

The Agreement provides for **further trade preferences** for trade in **agricultural products**, including additional fully liberalised tariff lines.

For more sensitive products such as meat, dairy, vegetables and ornamental plants, additional or new tariff quotas have been agreed upon.

The deepening of trade relations with Norway fits into the overall context of EU trade policy and is **beneficial for the EU** since the EU is a net exporter of basic agricultural products to Norway.

The main products exported by the EU are wines and vinegar, animal feed, soya and colza oil, live plants and cheese.

Imports into the EU from Norway are mainly soybean, animal and vegetable oils and their residues, fur skins and undenatured ethyl alcohol.

BUDGETARY IMPLICATIONS: this Agreement will have no impact on the expenditure side of the EU budget. The new concessions granted on imports from Norway will likely result in a reduction of own resources through a lower collection of customs duties.

EU/Norway agreement: additional trade preferences in agricultural products

2017/0259(NLE) - 14/05/2018 - Final act

PURPOSE: to conclude an agreement in the form of an exchange of letters between the European Union and Norway concerning additional trade preferences in agricultural products.

NON-LEGISLATIVE ACT: Council Decision (EU) 2018/760 on the conclusion of an Agreement in the form of an Exchange of Letters between the European Union and the Kingdom of Norway concerning additional trade preferences in agricultural products.

CONTENT: the Council decided to approve, on behalf of the Union, **the agreement in the form of an Exchange of Letters between the European Union and the Kingdom of Norway** concerning additional trade preferences in agricultural products.

The agreement was signed on 4 December 2017, subject to its conclusion. Under the new agreement, the two parties agreed to **grant duty-free access to 36 new tariff lines on a reciprocal basis**. These include live horses, certain products of animal origin and types of offal, plants, vegetables for animal feed, provisionally preserved vegetables, fruit, berries and nuts, seaweed, certain sugars, fruit juices and fermented beverages.

Norway increases its duty-free tariff quotas for: (i) beef (1600 t), (ii) poultry meat (150 t), (iii) canned meat products (200 t), (iv) cheese and curd (1200 t), (v) flowers and plants (two tariff lines of 12 and 3 respectively).000 000 NOK), (vi) lettuce and chicory (100 t), (vii) maize (5000 t) and sausages (200 t), and provides for a duty of 15 NOK/kg under the pigmeat quota (300 t).

The European Union increases its duty-free tariff quotas for the following Norwegian products: poultrymeat (700 t), preserved meat (300 t), whey products (4400 t), flowers (500.000 EUR), thinly sliced potatoes (150 t), animal feed (200 t) and albumin (500 t); it merges the current sheepmeat and goatmeat quotas.

ENTRY INTO FORCE: 14.5.2018.