





Basic information	
2019/0196(NLE) NLE - Non-legislative enactments	Procedure completed
EU/Switzerland Agreement: modification of Switzerland's WTO concessions on meat not further prepared than seasoned Subject 3.10.05.01 Meat 6.20.01 Agreements and relations in the context of the World Trade Organization (WTO) 6.40.01 Relations with EEA/EFTA countries Geographical area Switzerland	

Key players				
European Parliament	Committee responsible		Rapporteur	Appointed
	<div style="border: 1px solid red; display: inline-block; padding: 2px;">INTA</div> International Trade		WARBORN Jörgen (EPP)	02/10/2019
			Shadow rapporteur DANTI Nicola (Renew) PAET Urmas (Renew) BOURGEOIS Geert (ECR)	
Council of the European Union	Council configuration		Meetings	Date
	Foreign Affairs		3765	2020-07-13
European Commission	Commission DG		Commissioner	
	Trade and Economic Security		MALMSTRÖM Cecilia	

Key events			
Date	Event	Reference	Summary
24/09/2019	Preparatory document	COM(2019)0419 	
21/10/2019	Legislative proposal published	12482/2019	
19/12/2019	Committee referral announced in Parliament		

21/04/2020	Vote in committee		
28/04/2020	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading	A9-0092/2020	
17/06/2020	Decision by Parliament	T9-0139/2020	Summary
17/06/2020	Results of vote in Parliament		
18/06/2020	Results of vote in Parliament		
13/07/2020	Act adopted by Council after consultation of Parliament		
21/07/2020	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2019/0196(NLE)
Procedure type	NLE - Non-legislative enactments
Procedure subtype	Consent by Parliament
Other legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 165
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	INTA/9/01431

Documentation gateway				
European Parliament				
Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee draft report		PE646.756	10/01/2020	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE648.391	26/02/2020	
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading		A9-0092/2020	28/04/2020	
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading		T9-0139/2020	17/06/2020	Summary
Council of the EU				
Document type		Reference	Date	Summary
Document attached to the procedure		12483/2019	14/10/2019	
Legislative proposal		12482/2019	21/10/2019	
European Commission				
Document type		Reference	Date	Summary
Preparatory document		COM(2019)0419 	24/09/2019	

Additional information

Source	Document	Date
European Commission	EUR-Lex	

Final act

Decision 2020/1067
OJ L 233 21.07.2020, p. 0001

EU/Switzerland Agreement: modification of Switzerland's WTO concessions on meat not further prepared than seasoned

2019/0196(NLE) - 17/06/2020 - Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading

The European Parliament adopted by 682 votes to 2, with 4 abstentions, 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 Swiss Confederation in the context of negotiations under Article XXVIII of the GATT 1994 on the modification of Switzerland's WTO concessions with regard to seasoned meat.

In line with the recommendation made by the Committee on International Trade, the European Parliament gave its consent to the conclusion of the Agreement.

Some years ago when Switzerland was faced with a sharp increase in meat imports, including 'seasoned meat', the Swiss Parliament adopted a motion at the end of 2015 to reclassify certain 'seasoned meat', which led to a sharp increase in customs duties for the products in question. In 2017, the EU challenged this measure at the WTO, alleging its incompatibility with WTO rules.

In April 2018, Switzerland agreed that it had to compensate for the increase of tariff and launched a negotiation procedure under Article XXVIII of the GATT in order to modify the tariff concessions in its schedule for the 'meat not further prepared than seasoned'.

At the end of 2018, the Council authorised the Commission to negotiate compensation. Switzerland proposed to increase its WTO tariff rate quota for beef by 1 200 tonnes as compensation. Within this tariff quota, Switzerland committed itself in particular to allocate a specific sub-quota of 600 tonnes for 'seasoned meat'. A new tariff line has been created for this purpose. Switzerland also maintains the previously agreed reduced duty for beef imported for the purposes of processing into dry meat.

A draft agreement was initialled in July 2019. On 24 October, the Council adopted a decision on the signing of the agreement, which was signed on 9 December 2019 in Brussels.

By exchange of letters, the EU and Switzerland agreed on the amendments to be incorporated in the Swiss schedule of commitments: new tariffs (including for dry beef meat) and the increased tariff quota from 22 500 tonnes (current) to 23 700 tonnes.