

Basic information**2024/0029(COD)**COD - Ordinary legislative procedure (ex-codecision procedure)
Regulation

Temporary trade-liberalisation measures supplementing trade concessions applicable to Moldovan products under the EU/Euratom /Moldova Association Agreement

Subject6.20.03 Bilateral economic and trade agreements and relations
6.40.15 European neighbourhood policy
8.20.01 Candidate countries**Geographical area**

Moldova

Procedure completed

Key playersEuropean
Parliament**Committee responsible**

INTA

International Trade

RapporteurGREGOROVÁ Markéta
(Greens/EFA)**Appointed**

24/01/2024

Shadow rapporteur

KALNIETE Sandra (EPP)

TUDOSE Mihai (S&D)

PAET Urmas (Renew)

WASZCZYKOWSKI Witold
Jan (ECR)

KRAH Maximilian (ID)

SCHOLZ Helmut (The Left)

Committee for opinion

BUDG

Budgets

Rapporteur for opinionThe committee decided not
to give an opinion.**Appointed**

AGRI



Agriculture and Rural Development

LINS Norbert (EPP)

13/02/2024

Council of the
European UnionEuropean
Commission**Commission DG****Commissioner**

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
31/01/2024	Legislative proposal published	COM(2024)0051 	Summary
26/02/2024	Committee referral announced in Parliament, 1st reading		
07/03/2024	Vote in committee, 1st reading		
08/03/2024	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading	A9-0079/2024	
13/03/2024	Decision by Parliament, 1st reading	T9-0155/2024	Summary
13/03/2024	Results of vote in Parliament		
13/05/2024	Act adopted by Council after Parliament's 1st reading		
14/05/2024	Final act signed		
29/05/2024	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information


Procedure reference	2024/0029(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/9/14112

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee draft report		PE759.004	13/02/2024	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE759.641	20/02/2024	
Specific opinion	AGRI	PE759.088	27/02/2024	
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading		A9-0079/2024	08/03/2024	
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading		T9-0155/2024	13/03/2024	Summary

Council of the EU

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Draft final act	00060/2024/LEX	14/05/2024	
European Commission			
Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Legislative proposal	COM(2024)0051 	31/01/2024	Summary

Additional information			
Source	Document	Date	
European Commission	EUR-Lex		

Meetings with interest representatives published in line with the Rules of Procedure

Rapporteurs, Shadow Rapporteurs and Committee Chairs

Transparency				
Name	Role	Committee	Date	Interest representatives
GREGOROVÁ Markéta	Rapporteur	INTA	13/02/2024	Copa-Cogeca

Final act
Regulation 2024/1501 OJ OJ L 29.05.2024
Summary

Temporary trade-liberalisation measures supplementing trade concessions applicable to Moldovan products under the EU/Euratom/Moldova Association Agreement

2024/0029(COD) - 13/03/2024 - Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading

The European Parliament adopted by 459 votes to 65, with 57 abstentions, a legislative resolution on the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on temporary trade-liberalisation measures supplementing trade concessions applicable to products from the Republic of Moldova under the Association Agreement between the European Union and the European Atomic Energy Community and their Member States, of the one part, and the Republic of Moldova, of the other part.

The European Parliament adopted its position at first reading under the ordinary legislative procedure by taking over the Commission proposal.

Russia's unprovoked and unjustified war of aggression against Ukraine since 24 February 2022, has had a profoundly negative impact on the ability of the Republic of Moldova to trade with the rest of the world, in particular because exports from the Republic of Moldova rely on transit via Ukrainian territory and on Ukrainian infrastructure, which are currently largely unavailable.

In 2022, the European Parliament and the Council adopted Regulation (EU) 2022/1279, which puts in place temporary trade-liberalisation measures supplementing trade concessions applicable to products from Moldova under the EU-Moldova Association Agreement.

The present legislative proposal aims to once again renew these trade-liberalisation measures for a period of one year as of the date on which the current measures expire (i.e., as of 25 July 2024). Under the proposed regulation, all outstanding tariffs under Title V of the Association Agreement will be suspended. This concerns fruits and vegetables subject to the entry-price system and tariff-rate quotas, namely tomatoes, garlic, table grapes, apples, cherries, plums and grape juice. Most Moldovan exports already benefit from duty-free access to the EU market under the Association Agreement.

The proposal introduces a strengthened safeguard mechanism to prevent and counteract adverse market effects in the EU Member States. The Commission can take any necessary measures, including the reintroduction of customs duties if it finds that imports of a specific product covered by this regulation leads to market disturbances in the EU or any of its Member States. The Commission will regularly monitor the impact of the trade-liberalisation measures in terms of import volumes and prices.

Trade liberalisation measures are subject to Moldova's compliance with democratic principles, human rights and fundamental freedoms as well as the countering of the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, related materials and their means of delivery; respect for the principles of the rule of law and good governance, the fight against corruption, criminal activities, organised or otherwise, including those of transnational character, and terrorism, and the respect for the principles of sustainable development and effective multilateralism.

Temporary trade-liberalisation measures supplementing trade concessions applicable to Moldovan products under the EU/Euratom/Moldova Association Agreement

2024/0029(COD) - 31/01/2024 - Legislative proposal

PURPOSE: to increase the trade flows concerning all imports from Moldova by suspending all outstanding tariffs and import duties applied to Moldovan products.

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

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: Russia's unprovoked and unjustified war of aggression against Ukraine since 24 February 2022 has had a profoundly negative impact on the ability of the Republic of Moldova to trade with the rest of the world, in particular because exports from the Republic of Moldova relied on transit via Ukrainian territory and on Ukrainian infrastructure, which are currently largely unavailable.

Under such critical circumstances, and to mitigate the negative effects on Moldova's economy of Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine, it is necessary to accelerate the development of closer economic relations between the Union and Moldova and to provide continued support to Moldova's economy.

[Regulation \(EU\) 2023/1524](#) of the European Parliament and of the Council will remain in force until 24 July 2024. These measures have provided flexibility and certainty for Moldovan producers and have further deepened Moldova's trade relations with the EU and supported its economy. However, the situation remains extremely challenging and therefore Moldova has asked the EU to retain the current conditions to enable the country to continue its trade with the EU and with the rest of the world via the EU.

CONTENT: given Russia's continued war of aggression against Ukraine and the ongoing impact on Moldova, and considering that Moldova was granted EU candidate status in June 2022 and Accession Negotiations were opened in December 2023, the Commission proposes a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council that will **renew these trade-liberalisation measures for a period of one year** as of the date the current measures expire (i.e. as of 25 July 2024).

The measures should take the form of a **temporary suspension of all outstanding tariffs** under Title V of the Association Agreement. This concerns fruits and vegetables subject to the entry-price system and seven agricultural products subject to tariff-rate quotas (tomatoes, garlic, table grapes, apples, cherries, plums and grape juice).

Through these measures the Union will deepen economic integration between Moldova and the Union and temporarily provide appropriate economic support to the benefit of the Republic of Moldova and the economic operators that are affected by Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine.

The trade-liberalisation measures set out in this proposal for a Regulation are in line with the Association Agreement which commits to respecting democratic principles, human rights and fundamental freedoms as well as to countering the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, related materials and their means of delivery.

In addition, under the same Article, the Parties commit in particular to respecting the rule of law and good governance, the fight against corruption, criminal activities, organised or otherwise, including those of transnational character, and terrorism, as well as the principles of sustainable development and effective multilateralism. The trade-liberalisation measures themselves would need, as a prerequisite, to respect these essential elements and general principles.

The trade-liberalisation measures outlined in this proposal aim to ensure that the EU's common commercial policy is conducted in line with the principles and objectives of the EU's external action.

According to the proposal, a safeguard mechanism will apply on the basis of regular monitoring, allowing for any measure which is necessary to be imposed.

Budgetary implications

According to an estimate based on Moldova's imports of the products concerned in 2021, which was the last year before autonomous trade measures were introduced, the EU will see a loss of customs revenue corresponding to around EUR 0.3 million per year. Therefore, the impact on the EU's own resources will be very limited.

Temporary trade-liberalisation measures supplementing trade concessions applicable to Moldovan products under the EU/Euratom/Moldova Association Agreement

2024/0029(COD) - 29/05/2024 - Final act

PURPOSE: to extend the suspension of import duties and quotas on Moldovan exports to the EU.

LEGISLATIVE ACT: Regulation (EU) 2024/1501 of the European Parliament and of the Council on temporary trade-liberalisation measures supplementing trade concessions applicable to products from the Republic of Moldova under the Association Agreement between the European Union and the European Atomic Energy Community and their Member States, of the one part, and the Republic of Moldova, of the other part.

CONTENT: the regulation provides for the extension of the suspension of import duties and quotas on Moldovan agricultural products for a further year, until **24 July 2025**, in order to support the country in the context of the war of aggression waged by Russia. The regulation maintains the suspension of all customs duties and quotas due under Title V of the Association Agreement between the EU and Moldova.

Temporary trade-liberalisation measures

The temporary trade-liberalisation measures established by this regulation should take the following form: (i) the suspension of the application of the entry price system to fruit and vegetables; and (ii) the suspension of all tariff-rate quotas and import duties. Through those measures, the Union will deepen economic integration between the Republic of Moldova and the Union and temporarily provide appropriate economic support to the benefit of the Republic of Moldova and the economic operators that are affected by Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine.

Conditions for entitlement to the trade-liberalisation measures include the following:

- compliance by Moldova with the rules of origin of products and the procedures related thereto, as provided for in the Association Agreement;
- Moldova abstaining from introducing new duties or charges having equivalent effect and new quantitative restrictions or measures having equivalent effect for imports originating in the Union, from increasing existing levels of duties or charges or from introducing any other restrictions, including discriminatory internal administrative measures, unless clearly justified in the context of Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine; and
- Moldova respecting democratic principles, human rights and fundamental freedoms as well as the countering of the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, related materials and their means of delivery, respect for the principles of the rule of law and good governance, the fight against corruption, criminal activities, organised or otherwise, including those of transnational character, and terrorism, and respecting the principles of sustainable development and effective multilateralism.

Should Moldova fail to comply with any of these conditions, the Commission will be entitled to temporarily **suspend** all or part of the trade liberalisation measures introduced by this regulation.

Safeguard mechanism

The regulation strengthens the protection of sensitive agricultural products by consolidating the safeguard mechanism already provided for in the current regulation.

Subject to an assessment by the Commission carried out in the context of the regular monitoring of the impact of this regulation and launched either following a duly substantiated request from a Member State or on the Commission's own initiative, the regulation provides for the possibility to take any necessary measures regarding imports of any products falling under the scope of this regulation which are adversely affecting the Union market or the market of one or several Member States for like or directly competing products.

ENTRY INTO FORCE: 25.7.2024. The regulation will apply until 24.7.2025.