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INFORMATION NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Permanent Representatives Committee/Council
Subject:	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 - Outcome of the European Parliament's first reading (Strasbourg, 15 to 18 December)

I. INTRODUCTION

In accordance with the provisions of Article 294 of the TFEU and the joint declaration on practical arrangements for the codecision procedure ¹, a number of informal contacts have taken place between the Council, the European Parliament and the Commission with a view to reaching an agreement on this dossier at first reading, thereby avoiding the need for second reading and conciliation.

In this context, the rapporteur, Mr Sorin MOISĂ (S&D, RO), presented a draft report to the Committee on International Trade, proposing to take over the proposal of the Commission. That proposal corresponds to the agreement found in the informal contacts referred to above.

No amendments were tabled for the plenary.

¹ OJ C 145, 30.6.2007, p.5

II. VOTE

When it voted on 17 December 2014, the plenary adopted the Parliament's first reading position, taking over the Commission's proposal.

The Parliament's position reflects what had been previously agreed between the institutions. The Council should therefore be in a position to approve the Parliament's position.

The act would then be adopted in the wording which corresponds to the Parliament's position.

The text adopted and the European Parliament's legislative resolution are set out in the Annex hereto.

Autonomous trade preferences for the Republic of Moldova *I**

European Parliament legislative resolution of 17 December 2014 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 (COM(2014)0542 – C8-0128/2014 – 2014/0250(COD))

(Ordinary legislative procedure: first reading)

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the Commission proposal to the Parliament and the Council (COM(2014)0542),
 - having regard to Article 294(2) and Article 207(2) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, pursuant to which the Commission submitted the proposal to Parliament (C8-0128/2014),
 - having regard to Article 294(3) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,
 - having regard to the undertaking given by the Council representative by letter of 10 December 2014 to approve Parliament's position, in accordance with Article 294(4) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,
 - having regard to Rule 59 of its Rules of Procedure,
 - having regard to the report of the Committee on International Trade and the opinion of the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development (A8-0053/2014),
1. Adopts its position at first reading hereinafter set out;
 2. Calls on the Commission to refer the matter to Parliament again if it intends to amend its proposal substantially or replace it with another text;
 3. Instructs its President to forward its position to the Council, the Commission and the national parliaments.

Position of the European Parliament adopted at first reading on 17 December 2014 with a view to the adoption of Regulation (EU) No.../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

THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, and in particular Article 207(2) thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the European Commission,

After transmission of the draft legislative act to the national parliaments,

Acting in accordance with the ordinary legislative procedure¹,

Whereas:

- (1) Council Regulation (EC) No 55/2008¹ established a specific scheme of autonomous trade preferences for the Republic of 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.
- (2) In the framework of the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP), the EU-Moldova ENP Action Plan and the Eastern Partnership, the Republic of Moldova has adopted an ambitious agenda for political association and further economic integration with the Union. The Republic of Moldova has also already made strong progress on regulatory approximation leading to convergence with Union laws and standards.

¹ Position of the European Parliament of 17 December 2014.

- (3) 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 part² (the Association Agreement), including the Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area (DCFTA), was signed on 27 June 2014 and the provisional application was effective from 1 September 2014.
- (4) The specific scheme of autonomous trade preferences will continue to apply until 31 December 2015.
- (5) In order to support the efforts of the Republic of Moldova in accordance with the objectives set out in the ENP, the Eastern Partnership and the Association Agreement, and to provide an attractive and reliable market for its exports of fresh apples, fresh plums and fresh table grapes, further concessions should be made for the import of those products from the Republic of Moldova into the Union, on the basis of duty free tariff quotas.
- (6) It is also necessary to amend certain CN codes in the Annex to Regulation (EC) No 55/2008 in order to reflect the amendments introduced in Annex I to Council Regulation (EEC) No 2658/87³ by Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 1001/2013⁴.
- (7) In order to allow the operators to benefit from those further concessions as soon as possible, this Regulation should enter into force on the day of its publication in the *Official Journal of the European Union*.
- (8) In view of the seasonal production peak of those products, it is appropriate to apply the further concessions from 1 August 2014.
- (9) Regulation (EC) No 55/2008 should therefore be amended accordingly,

HAVE ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

¹ Council Regulation (EC) No 55/2008 of 21 January 2008 introducing autonomous trade preferences for the Republic of Moldova and amending Regulation (EC) No 980/2005 and Commission Decision 2005/924/EC (OJ L 20, 24.1.2008, p. 1).

² OJ L 260, 30.8.2014, p. 4.

³ Council Regulation (EEC) No 2658/87 of 23 July 1987 on the tariff and statistical nomenclature and on the Common Customs Tariff (OJ L 256, 7.9.1987, p. 1).

⁴ Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 1001/2013 of 4 October 2013 amending Annex I to Council Regulation (EEC) No 2658/87 on the tariff and statistical nomenclature and on the Common Customs Tariff (OJ L 290, 31.10.2013, p. 1).

Article 1

In Annex I to Regulation (EC) No 55/2008, Table 1 is replaced by the text set out in the Annex to this Regulation.

Article 2

This Regulation shall enter into force on the day of its publication in the *Official Journal of the European Union*.

It shall apply from 1 August 2014.

This Regulation shall be binding in its entirety and directly applicable in all Member States.

Done at ...,

For the European Parliament

For the Council

The President

The President

ANNEX

‘1. Products subject to annual duty free tariff quotas

Order No	CN Code	Description	2008 ⁽¹⁾	2009 ⁽¹⁾	2010 ⁽¹⁾	2011 ⁽¹⁾	2012 ⁽¹⁾	2013 ⁽¹⁾	2014 ⁽¹⁾	2015 ⁽¹⁾
09.0504	0201 to 0204	Fresh, chilled and frozen meat of bovine animals, swine and sheep and goats	3 000 ⁽²⁾	3 000 ⁽²⁾	4 000 ⁽²⁾	4 000 ⁽²⁾	4 000 ⁽²⁾	4 000 ⁽²⁾	4 000 ⁽²⁾	4 000 ⁽²⁾
09.0505	ex 0207	Meat and edible offal of the poultry of heading 0105, fresh, chilled or frozen, other than fatty livers of subheading 0207 43	400 ⁽²⁾	400 ⁽²⁾	500 ⁽²⁾	500 ⁽²⁾	500 ⁽²⁾	500 ⁽²⁾	500 ⁽²⁾	500 ⁽²⁾
09.0506	ex 0210	Meat and edible meat offal of swine and bovine animals, salted, in brine, dried or smoked; edible flours and meals of meat or meat offal of domestic swine and bovine animals	400 ⁽²⁾	400 ⁽²⁾	500 ⁽²⁾	500 ⁽²⁾	500 ⁽²⁾	500 ⁽²⁾	500 ⁽²⁾	500 ⁽²⁾
09.4210	0401 to 0406	Dairy products	1 000 ⁽²⁾	1 000 ⁽²⁾	1 500 ⁽²⁾	1 500 ⁽²⁾	1 500 ⁽²⁾	1 500 ⁽²⁾	1 500 ⁽²⁾	1 500 ⁽²⁾
09.0507	0407 00	Birds' eggs, in shells	90 ⁽³⁾	95 ⁽³⁾	100 ⁽³⁾	110 ⁽³⁾	120 ⁽³⁾	120 ⁽³⁾	120 ⁽³⁾	120 ⁽³⁾

09.0508	ex 0408	Birds' eggs, not in shells, and egg yolks, other than those unfit for human consumption	200 ⁽²⁾	200 ⁽²⁾	300 ⁽²⁾	300 ⁽²⁾	300 ⁽²⁾	300 ⁽²⁾	300 ⁽²⁾	300 ⁽²⁾
09.0515	0806 10 10	Fresh table grapes	-	-	-	-	-	10 000 ⁽²⁾⁽⁴⁾	10 000 ⁽²⁾	10 000 ⁽²⁾
09.0516	0808 10 80	Fresh apples (at the exception of cider apples, in bulk, from 16 September to 15 December)	-	-	-	-	-	40 000 ⁽²⁾⁽⁴⁾	40 000 ⁽²⁾	40 000 ⁽²⁾
09.0517	0809 40 05	Fresh plums	-	-	-	-	-	10 000 ⁽²⁾⁽⁴⁾	10 000 ⁽²⁾	10 000 ⁽²⁾
09.0509	1001 91 20 1001 91 90 1001 99	Other spelt (other than spelt for sowing), common wheat and meslin	25 000 ⁽²⁾	30 000 ⁽²⁾	35 000 ⁽²⁾	40 000 ⁽²⁾	50 000 ⁽²⁾	60 000 ⁽²⁾	65 000 ⁽²⁾	65 000 ⁽²⁾
09.0510	1003 90 00	Barley	20 000 ⁽²⁾	25 000 ⁽²⁾	30 000 ⁽²⁾	35 000 ⁽²⁾	45 000 ⁽²⁾	55 000 ⁽²⁾	60 000 ⁽²⁾	60 000 ⁽²⁾
09.0511	1005 90	Maize	15 000 ⁽²⁾	20 000 ⁽²⁾	25 000 ⁽²⁾	30 000 ⁽²⁾	40 000 ⁽²⁾	45 000 ⁽²⁾	50 000 ⁽²⁾	55 000 ⁽²⁾
09.0512	1601 00 91 and 1601 00	Sausages and similar products, of meat, meat offal or blood; food	500 ⁽²⁾	500 ⁽²⁾	600 ⁽²⁾	600 ⁽²⁾	600 ⁽²⁾	600 ⁽²⁾	600 ⁽²⁾	600 ⁽²⁾

