



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

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INFORMATION NOTE

from:	General Secretariat
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, 9 to 12 December 2013)

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.

¹ OJ C 145, 30.6.2007, p.5

In this context, the rapporteur, Mr. Iuliu WINKLER (EPP, RO) presented a report on behalf of the Committee on International Trade, containing three compromise amendments (amendments 1-3) to the proposal for a Regulation. These amendments had been agreed during the informal contacts referred to above.

II. VOTE

When it voted on 10 December 2013, the plenary adopted the three compromise amendments (amendments 1-3) to the proposal for a Regulation. The Commission's proposal as thus amended constitutes the Parliament's first-reading position which is contained in its legislative resolution as set out in the Annex hereto¹.

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.

¹ The version of the Parliament's position in the legislative resolution has been marked up to indicate the changes made by the amendments to the Commission's proposal. Additions to the Commission's text are highlighted in *bold and italics*. The symbol "■" indicates deleted text.

1. Autonomous trade preferences for Moldova ***I

European Parliament legislative resolution of 10 December 2013 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(2013)0678 – C7-0305/2013 – 2013/0325(COD))

(Ordinary legislative procedure: first reading)

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the Commission proposal to Parliament and the Council (COM(2013)0678),
 - 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 (C7-0305/2013),
 - 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 5 December 2013 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 55 of its Rules of Procedure,
 - having regard to the report of the Committee on International Trade (A7-0422/2013),
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.

P7_TC1-COD(2013)0325

Position of the European Parliament adopted at first reading on 10 December 2013 with a view to the adoption of Regulation (EU) No .../2013 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,

¹ Position of the European Parliament of 10 December 2013.

Whereas:

- (1) Council Regulation (EC) No 55/2008¹ established a specific scheme of autonomous trade preferences for the Republic of Moldova (hereinafter "Moldova"). That scheme gives all products originating in 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, Moldova has adopted an ambitious agenda for political association and further economic integration with the Union. Moldova has also already made strong progress on regulatory approximation leading to convergence with Union laws and standards.
- (3) Negotiations on a new Association Agreement, including the establishment of a deep and comprehensive free trade area between the Union and Moldova, started in January 2010 and were finalised in July 2013. That Agreement provides for the full liberalisation of bilateral trade in wine.

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).

- (4) In order to support the efforts of Moldova in accordance with the ENP and the Eastern Partnership, and to provide an attractive and reliable market for its wine exports, the import of wine from Moldova into the Union should be liberalised without delay.
- (5) ***In order to ensure the continuation of trade flows from Moldova and legal certainty for economic operators, it is necessary that the autonomous trade preferences apply without interruption until the date set for their expiry in Regulation (EC) No 55/2008.***
- (6) Regulation (EC) No 55/2008 should therefore be amended accordingly,

HAVE ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

Article 1

Regulation (EC) No 55/2008 is amended as follows:

- (1) *in Article 16, the third, fourth and fifth paragraphs are deleted;*
- (2) in the table in point 1 of Annex I, the last row concerning order No 09.0514 "Wine of fresh grapes other than sparkling wine" is deleted.

Article 2

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

It shall apply from 1 January 2014.

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

Done at ...,

For the European Parliament
The President

For the Council
The President