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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 on certain procedures for applying the Stabilisation and Association Agreement between the European Communities and their Member States, of the one part, and the Republic of Albania, of the other part (codified text)
- Outcome of the European Parliament's first reading
(Strasbourg, 27 April to 30 April 2015)

I. INTRODUCTION

The rapporteur, Mr Andrzej DUDA (ECR - PL), presented a report, on behalf of the Committee on Legal Affairs, which proposed to take over the Commission proposal without amendment.

In accordance with the provisions of Article 294 of the TFEU and the joint declaration on practical arrangements for the codecision procedure¹, 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

II. VOTE

Pursuant to Rule 103 of the European Parliament's Rules of Procedure, the report was adopted by means of a single vote, without amendment or debate.

The text adopted and the legislative resolution constitute the European Parliament's first reading position², it reflects what had been agreed during the informal contacts referred to above.

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.

² The text adopted and the European Parliament's legislative resolution are set out in the Annex.

Stabilisation and Association Agreement with Albania *I**

European Parliament legislative resolution of 29 April 2015 on the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on certain procedures for applying the Stabilisation and Association Agreement between the European Communities and their Member States, of the one part, and the Republic of Albania, of the other part (codified text) (COM(2014)0375 – C8-0034/2014 – 2014/0191(COD))

(Ordinary legislative procedure – codification)

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the Commission proposal to the European Parliament and the Council (COM(2014)0375),
 - 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 (C8-0034/2014),
 - having regard to Article 294(3) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,
 - having regard to the Interinstitutional Agreement of 20 December 1994 - Accelerated working method for official codification of legislative texts³,
 - having regard to Rules 103 and 59 of its Rules of Procedure,
 - having regard to the report of the Committee on Legal Affairs (A8-0047/2015),
- A. whereas, according to the Consultative Working Party of the legal services of the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission, the proposal in question contains a straightforward codification of the existing texts without any change in their substance;
1. Adopts its position at first reading hereinafter set out;
 2. Instructs its President to forward its position to the Council, the Commission and the national parliaments.

³ OJ C 102, 4.4.1996, p. 2.

P8_TC1-COD(2014)0191

Position of the European Parliament adopted at first reading on 29 April 2015 with a view to the adoption of Regulation (EU) 2015/... of the European Parliament and of the Council on certain procedures for applying the Stabilisation and Association Agreement between the European Communities and their Member States, of the one part, and the Republic of Albania, of the other part (codification)

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 procedure⁴,

⁴ Position of the European Parliament of 29 April 2015.

Whereas:

- (1) Council Regulation (EC) No 1616/2006⁵ has been substantially amended⁶. In the interests of clarity and rationality, that Regulation should be codified.
- (2) A Stabilisation and Association Agreement between the European Communities and their Member States, of the one part, and the Republic of Albania, of the other part⁷ ('SAA'), was signed in Luxembourg on 12 June 2006 and entered into force on 1 April 2009.
- (3) It is necessary to lay down the procedures for applying certain provisions of the SAA.
- (4) The SAA stipulates that fishery products originating in Albania may be imported into the Union at a reduced customs duty, within the limits of tariff quotas. It is therefore necessary to lay down provisions regulating the management of those tariff quotas.

⁵ Council Regulation (EC) No 1616/2006 of 23 October 2006 on certain procedures for applying the Stabilisation and Association Agreement between the European Communities and their Member States, of the one part, and the Republic of Albania, of the other part, and for applying the Interim Agreement between the European Community and the Republic of Albania (OJ L 300, 31.10.2006, p. 1).

⁶ See Annex I.

⁷ OJ L 107, 28.4.2009, p. 166.

- (5) Where trade defence measures become necessary, they should be adopted in accordance with the general provisions laid down in Regulation (EU) 2015/478 of the European Parliament and of the Council⁸, Regulation (EU) 2015/479 of the European Parliament and of the Council⁹, Council Regulation (EC) No 1225/2009¹⁰ or, as the case may be, Council Regulation (EC) No 597/2009¹¹.
- (6) Where a Member State provides information to the Commission on a possible fraud or failure to provide administrative cooperation, the relevant Union legislation shall apply, in particular Council Regulation (EC) No 515/97¹².
- (7) For the purposes of implementing the relevant provisions of this Regulation the Commission should be assisted by the Customs Code Committee established by Article 285 of Regulation (EU) No 952/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council¹³.

⁸ Regulation (EU) 2015/478 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2015 on common rules for imports (OJ L 83, 27.3.2015, p. 16).

⁹ Regulation (EU) 2015/479 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2015 on common rules for exports (OJ L 83, 27.3.2015, p. 34).

¹⁰ Council Regulation (EC) No 1225/2009 of 30 November 2009 on protection against dumped imports from countries not members of the European Community (OJ L 343, 22.12.2009, p. 51).

¹¹ Council Regulation (EC) No 597/2009 of 11 June 2009 on protection against subsidised imports from countries not members of the European Community (OJ L 188, 18.7.2009, p. 93).

¹² Council Regulation (EC) No 515/97 of 13 March 1997 on mutual assistance between the administrative authorities of the Member States and cooperation between the latter and the Commission to ensure the correct application of the law on customs and agricultural matters (OJ L 82, 22.3.1997, p. 1).

¹³ Regulation (EU) No 952/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 October 2013 laying down the Union Customs Code (OJ L 269, 10.10.2013, p. 1).

- (8) The implementation of the bilateral safeguard clauses of the SAA requires uniform conditions for the adoption of safeguard and other measures. Those measures should be adopted in accordance with Regulation (EU) No 182/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council¹⁴.
- (9) The Commission should adopt immediately applicable implementing acts where, in duly justified cases relating to exceptional and critical circumstances arising within the meaning of Article 39(4) of the SAA, imperative grounds of urgency so require,

HAVE ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

Article 1
Subject matter

This Regulation lays down certain procedures for the adoption of detailed rules for the implementation of certain provisions of the Stabilisation and Association Agreement between the European Communities and their Member States, of the one part, and the Republic of Albania, of the other part ('SAA').

¹⁴ Regulation (EU) No 182/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 February 2011 laying down the rules and general principles concerning mechanisms for control by Member States of the Commission's exercise of implementing powers (OJ L 55, 28.2.2011, p. 13).

Article 2

Concessions for fish and fishery products

Detailed rules for the implementation of Article 28(1) of the SAA, concerning the tariff quotas for fish and fishery products, shall be adopted by the Commission in accordance with the examination procedure referred to in Article 9(3) of this Regulation.

Article 3

Tariff reductions

1. Subject to paragraph 2, rates of preferential duty shall be rounded down to the first decimal place.
2. Where the result of calculating the rate of preferential duty pursuant to paragraph 1 is one of the following, the preferential rate shall be considered a full exemption:
 - (a) 1 % or less in the case of *ad valorem* duties; or
 - (b) EUR 1 or less per individual amount in the case of specific duties.

Article 4
Technical adaptations

Amendments and technical adaptations to the provisions adopted pursuant to this Regulation which are necessary following changes to the Combined Nomenclature codes and to the TARIC subdivisions, or arising from the conclusion of new or modified agreements, protocols, exchanges of letters or other acts between the Union and Albania, shall be adopted in accordance with the examination procedure referred to in Article 9(3).

Article 5
General safeguard clause

Where the Union needs to take a measure as provided for in Article 38 of the SAA, that measure shall be adopted in accordance with the examination procedure referred to in Article 9(3) of this Regulation, unless otherwise specified in Article 38 of the SAA.

Article 6
Shortage clause

Where the Union needs to take a measure as provided for in Article 39 of the SAA, that measure shall be adopted in accordance with the examination procedure referred to in Article 9(3) of this Regulation.

Article 7
Exceptional and critical circumstances

Where exceptional and critical circumstances arise within the meaning of Article 39(4) of the SAA, the Commission may take immediate measures as provided for in Article 39 of the SAA.

If the Commission receives a request from a Member State, it shall take a decision thereon within five working days of receipt of the request.

The Commission shall take the measures referred to in the first paragraph in accordance with the examination procedure referred to in Article 9(3) of this Regulation, or in cases of urgency, in accordance with Article 9(4) of this Regulation.

Article 8

Safeguard clause for agricultural and fisheries products

1. Notwithstanding the procedures referred to in Articles 5 and 6 of this Regulation, where the Union needs to take a safeguard measure as provided for in Article 38 of the SAA concerning agricultural and fisheries products, the Commission shall, at the request of a Member State or on its own initiative, decide upon the necessary measures after, where applicable, having had recourse to the referral procedure provided for in Article 38 of the SAA.

If the Commission receives a request from a Member State, it shall take a decision thereon:

- (a) within three working days of the receipt of a request, where the referral procedure provided for in Article 38 of the SAA does not apply; or
- (b) within three days of the end of the 30-day period referred to in point (a) of Article 38(5) of the SAA, where the referral procedure provided for in Article 38 of the SAA applies.

The Commission shall notify Member States of the measures upon which it has decided.

2. The Commission shall take such measures in accordance with the examination procedure referred to in Article 9(3), or in cases of urgency, in accordance with Article 9(4).

Article 9

Committee procedure

1. For the purpose of Articles 2, 4 and 12 of this Regulation, the Commission shall be assisted by the Customs Code Committee established by Article 285 of Regulation (EU) No 952/2013. That Committee shall be a committee within the meaning of Regulation (EU) No 182/2011.
2. For the purpose of Articles 5 to 8 of this Regulation, the Commission shall be assisted by the Committee on Safeguards established by Article 3(1) of Regulation (EU) 2015/478. That Committee shall be a committee within the meaning of Regulation (EU) No 182/2011.
3. Where reference is made to this paragraph, Article 5 of Regulation (EU) No 182/2011 shall apply.
4. Where reference is made to this paragraph, Article 8 of Regulation (EU) No 182/2011, in conjunction with Article 5 thereof, shall apply.

Article 10
Dumping and subsidy

In the event of a practice which is liable to warrant application by the Union of the measures provided for in Article 37(2) of the SAA, the introduction of anti-dumping and/or countervailing measures shall be decided upon in accordance with the provisions laid down in Regulation (EC) No 1225/2009 and/or Regulation (EC) No 597/2009, respectively.

Article 11
Competition

1. In the event of a practice that may justify application by the Union of the measures provided for in Article 71 of the SAA, the Commission shall, after examining the case, on its own initiative or on the request of a Member State, decide whether such practice is compatible with the SAA.

The measures provided for in Article 71(9) of the SAA shall be adopted, in the cases of aid, in accordance with the procedures laid down in Regulation (EC) No 597/2009 and, in other cases, in accordance with the procedure laid down in Article 207 of the Treaty.

2. In the event of a practice that may cause measures to be applied to the Union by Albania on the basis of Article 71 of the SAA, the Commission shall, after examining the case, decide whether the practice is compatible with the principles set out in the SAA. Where necessary, the Commission shall take appropriate decisions on the basis of criteria which result from the application of Articles 101, 102 and 107 of the Treaty.

Article 12

Fraud or failure to provide administrative cooperation

Where the Commission, on the basis of information provided by a Member State or on its own initiative, finds that the conditions laid down in Article 43 of the SAA are fulfilled, it shall, without undue delay:

- (a) inform the Council; and
- (b) notify the Stabilisation and Association Committee of its finding together with the objective information, and enter into consultations within the Stabilisation and Association Committee.

Any publication under Article 43(5) of the SAA shall be effected by the Commission in the *Official Journal of the European Union*.

The Commission may decide, in accordance with the examination procedure referred to in Article 9(3) of this Regulation, to suspend temporarily the relevant preferential treatment of the products as provided for in Article 43(4) of the SAA.

Article 13 Notification

The Commission, acting on behalf of the Union, shall be responsible for notification to the Stabilisation and Association Council and the Stabilisation and Association Committee, as required by the SAA.

Article 14

Repeal

Regulation (EC) No 1616/2006 is repealed.

References to the repealed Regulation shall be construed as references to this Regulation and shall be read in accordance with the correlation table in Annex II.

Article 15

Entry into force

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

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

ANNEX I

Repealed Regulation with the amendment thereto

Council Regulation (EC) No 1616/2006
(OJ L 300, 31.10.2006, p. 1)

Regulation (EU) No 37/2014 of the European Parliament
and of the Council
(OJ L 18, 21.1.2014, p. 1)

Only point 13 of the Annex

ANNEX II

CORRELATION TABLE

Regulation (EC) No 1616/2006	This Regulation
Articles 1 to 8	Articles 1 to 8
Article 8a	Article 9
Article 9	Article 10
Article 10	Article 11
Article 11	Article 12
Article 13	Article 13
—	Article 14
Article 14	Article 15
—	Annex I
—	Annex II