



Brussels, 17 November 2025  
(OR. en)

15418/25

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**Interinstitutional File:**  
**2025/0108 (COD)**

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**CODEC 1818**  
**POLCOM 342**  
**COWEB 152**  
**AGRI 617**  
**UD 273**  
**PE 90**

## INFORMATION NOTE

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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 Regulation (EU) 2024/823 of 28 February 2024 on exceptional trade measures for countries and territories participating in or linked to the Stabilisation and Association Process - Outcome of the European Parliament's first reading (Brussels, 12 to 13 November 2025)

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## I. INTRODUCTION

On 8 October 2025, the Permanent Representatives Committee confirmed that should the European Parliament approve the abovementioned Commission's proposal without amendments, the Council would approve the European Parliament's position<sup>1</sup>.

On 13 November 2025, the Chair of the Committee on International Trade (INTA) Bernd LANGE (S&D, DE) presented a report on behalf of INTA, aiming at taking over the Commission proposal. In addition, the Greens/EFA group tabled four amendments (amendments number 1 to 4).

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<sup>1</sup> 13343/25.

## II. VOTE

The Parliament adopted its first-reading position on 13 November 2025 by taking over the Commission proposal. This position is contained in its legislative resolution. No other amendments were adopted.

The Council should therefore be in a position to approve the European Parliament's position as set out in the Annex hereto, thus bringing to a close the first reading for both Institutions.

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

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## **P10\_TA(2025)0265**

### **Exceptional trade measures for countries and territories participating in or linked to the Stabilisation and Association Process**

**European Parliament legislative resolution of 13 November 2025 on the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulation (EU) 2024/823 of 28 February 2024 on exceptional trade measures for countries and territories participating in or linked to the Stabilisation and Association Process (COM(2025)0229 – C10-0083/2025 – 2025/0108(COD))**

**(Ordinary legislative procedure: first reading)**

*The European Parliament,*

- having regard to the Commission proposal to Parliament and the Council (COM(2025)0229),
  - 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 (C10-0083/2025),
  - 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 8 October 2025 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 60 of its Rules of Procedure,
  - having regard to the report of the Committee on International Trade (A10-0188/2025),
1. Adopts its position at first reading, hereinafter set out;
  2. Calls on the Commission to refer the matter to Parliament again if it replaces, substantially amends or intends to substantially amend its proposal;
  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 13 November 2025 with a view to the adoption of Regulation (EU) 2025/... of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulation (EU) 2024/823 on exceptional trade measures for countries and territories participating in or linked to the Stabilisation and Association Process**

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 procedure<sup>2</sup>,

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<sup>2</sup> Position of the European Parliament of 13 November 2025.

Whereas:

- (1) Regulation (EU) 2024/823 of the European Parliament and of the Council<sup>3</sup>, which applies until 31 December 2025, establishes a system of autonomous trade measures ('ATMs') between the Union and the Western Balkan countries and territories by exempting from customs duties and charges having equivalent effect certain agricultural products originating in the Western Balkans and providing certain wine products originating in the Western Balkans with access to a global tariff quota.
- (2) The current ATMs for the Western Balkans cover two remaining benefits: firstly, the suspension of the specific duties for all fruits and vegetables which are subject to the entry-price system; and, secondly, access to a global tariff quota for wine which is available on a first-come, first-served basis once the Western Balkan countries have exhausted the national quota in their respective Stabilisation and Association Agreement ('SAA'). Despite the limited scope of the current ATMs, those ATMs remain important.

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<sup>3</sup> Regulation (EU) 2024/823 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 February 2024 on exceptional trade measures for countries and territories participating in or linked to the Stabilisation and Association process (OJ L, 2024/823, 6.3.2024, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2024/823/oj>).

- (3) The system of ATMs constitutes a valuable support for the economies of the Western Balkan partners while not creating negative effects for the Union.
- (4) The Union should therefore continue supporting the vulnerable economies of the Western Balkan region by extending the period of application of Regulation (EU) 2024/823 for an additional five years. That extension demonstrates the Union's strong commitment to the trade integration of the Western Balkans.
- (5) It is therefore appropriate to extend the period of application of Regulation (EU) 2024/823 until 31 December 2030.
- (6) Extending the period of application of the ATMs is consistent with Regulation (EU) 2024/1449 of the European Parliament and of the Council<sup>4</sup>, which established the Reform and Growth Facility for the Western Balkans.

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<sup>4</sup> Regulation (EU) 2024/1449 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 May 2024 on establishing the Reform and Growth Facility for the Western Balkans (OJ L, 2024/1449, 24.5.2024, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2024/1449/oj>).

- (7) Following the entry into force of the EU-Kosovo\* Stabilisation and Association Agreement<sup>5</sup>, the last of the SAAs to enter into force, references to the fishery trade concessions in Article 3(2) of Regulation (EU) 2024/823 should be deleted as those quotas were transferred for all beneficiary parties to the respective bilateral SAAs.
- (8) Article 2(3) and Article 10 of Regulation (EU) 2024/823 provide for conflicting mechanisms for the suspension of benefits and should therefore be amended, in order to create legal certainty,

HAVE ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

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\* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with the UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.

<sup>5</sup> Stabilisation and Association Agreement between the European Union and the European Atomic Energy Community, of the one part, and Kosovo\*, of the other part (OJ L 71, 16.3.2016, p. 3, ELI: [http://data.europa.eu/eli/agree\\_international/2016/342/oj](http://data.europa.eu/eli/agree_international/2016/342/oj)).

## Article 1

Regulation (EU) 2024/823 is amended as follows:

(1) Article 2 is amended as follows:

(a) the title is replaced by the following:

‘Conditions for entitlement to, and related suspension of, the preferential arrangements’;

(b) in paragraph 1, point (c) is replaced by the following:

‘(c) the involvement of beneficiary parties in effective administrative cooperation with the Union, including as required for the verification of evidence of origin, in order to prevent any risk of fraud; and’;

(c) in paragraph 2, the second subparagraph is deleted;

(d) the following paragraph is added:

‘4. In the event of non-compliance by a beneficiary party with paragraph 1, point (d), of this Article, the Commission may suspend, in whole or in part, the entitlement of a beneficiary party concerned to benefits under this Regulation, pursuant to Article 6.’;

- (2) in Article 3, paragraph 2 is replaced by the following:
- ‘2. Notwithstanding other provisions of this Regulation, in particular Article 10, given the particular sensitivity of the agricultural markets, where imports of agricultural products cause serious disturbance to Union markets and their regulatory mechanisms, the Commission may adopt appropriate measures by means of implementing acts. Those implementing acts shall be adopted in accordance with the examination procedure referred to in Article 8(3).’;
- (3) Article 10 is amended as follows:
- (a) the title is replaced by the following:
- ‘Other temporary suspension measures’;
- (b) in paragraph 1, first subparagraph, the introductory part is replaced by the following:
- ‘1. Where the Commission finds that there is sufficient evidence of fraud or that there is a massive increase in imports into the Union above the level of normal production and export capacity, it may take measures to suspend in whole or in part the arrangements provided for in this Regulation for a period of three months, provided that it has first:’;
- (4) in Article 12, the second paragraph is replaced by the following:
- ‘It shall apply until 31 December 2030.’.

## Article 2

This Regulation shall enter into force on the 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*

*For the Council*

*The President*

*The President*

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