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*Plenary sitting*

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**A9-0219/2023**

28.6.2023

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## **REPORT**

on the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on temporary trade-liberalisation measures supplementing trade concessions applicable to Moldovan products 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 (COM(2023)0245) – C9-0166/2023 – 2023/0144(COD))

Committee on International Trade

Rapporteur: Markéta Gregorová

### ***Symbols for procedures***

- \* Consultation procedure
- \*\*\* Consent procedure
- \*\*\*I Ordinary legislative procedure (first reading)
- \*\*\*II Ordinary legislative procedure (second reading)
- \*\*\*III Ordinary legislative procedure (third reading)

(The type of procedure depends on the legal basis proposed by the draft act.)

### ***Amendments to a draft act***

#### **Amendments by Parliament set out in two columns**

Deletions are indicated in ***bold italics*** in the left-hand column. Replacements are indicated in ***bold italics*** in both columns. New text is indicated in ***bold italics*** in the right-hand column.

The first and second lines of the header of each amendment identify the relevant part of the draft act under consideration. If an amendment pertains to an existing act that the draft act is seeking to amend, the amendment heading includes a third line identifying the existing act and a fourth line identifying the provision in that act that Parliament wishes to amend.

#### **Amendments by Parliament in the form of a consolidated text**

New text is highlighted in ***bold italics***. Deletions are indicated using either the ▬ symbol or strikeout. Replacements are indicated by highlighting the new text in ***bold italics*** and by deleting or striking out the text that has been replaced.

By way of exception, purely technical changes made by the drafting departments in preparing the final text are not highlighted.

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## DRAFT EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT 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 Moldovan products 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  
(COM(2023)0245) – C9-0166/2023 – 2023/0144(COD))**

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

*The European Parliament,*

- having regard to the Commission proposal to Parliament and the Council (COM(2023)0245),
  - 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 (C9-0166/2023),
  - having regard to Article 294(3) 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 (A9-0219/2023),
1. Adopts its position at first reading, taking over the Commission proposal;
  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.

## EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

The illegal and unjustified Russian military aggression against Ukraine has negatively impacted the Republic of Moldova and its ability to sell its products beyond its borders, as Moldova relied heavily on Ukrainian transit routes and infrastructure for its own exports.

In this context, in 2022 the European Parliament and the Council adopted Regulation 2022/1279, which puts in place temporary trade-liberalisation measures supplementing trade concessions applicable to products from Moldova under the EU-Moldova Association Agreement. This regulation has allowed Moldova to redirect via the EU some of its trade with the rest of the world, as well as to deepen its trade relations with the EU and to stabilise its economy.

The present legislative proposal aims to renew and expand 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 2023). 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 to 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 quantities and range of products covered by the present proposal are therefore relatively small. The proposal also includes an expedited safeguard mechanism that can be activated in order to protect the Union market in case of adverse effects.

These temporary and exceptional measures will facilitate and support the existing trade flows from Moldova to the Union and help Moldova's economy. They are also in line with the main objectives of the Association Agreement, namely to establish the conditions for enhancing economic and trade relations leading toward Moldova's gradual integration into the EU internal market and contributing to the strengthening of democracy and political, economic, and institutional stability in Moldova, which has been an EU candidate country since 2022.

Given the continued hardship experienced by the Moldovan people as a result of the Russian war of aggression against Ukraine, it is vital that the EU continue supporting Moldova both economically and politically. Therefore, your rapporteur proposes to adopt this proposal without amendments in order to allow for its swift approval ahead of the expiry of the existing trade-liberalisation measures.

## PROCEDURE – COMMITTEE RESPONSIBLE

<b>Title</b>	Temporary trade-liberalisation measures supplementing trade concessions applicable to Moldovan products 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
<b>References</b>	COM(2023)0245 – C9-0166/2023 – 2023/0144(COD)
<b>Date submitted to Parliament</b>	3.5.2023
<b>Committee responsible</b> Date announced in plenary	INTA 8.5.2023
<b>Committees asked for opinions</b> Date announced in plenary	BUDG 8.5.2023
<b>Not delivering opinions</b> Date of decision	BUDG 23.5.2023
<b>Rapporteurs</b> Date appointed	Markéta Gregorová 27.4.2023
<b>Discussed in committee</b>	25.5.2023
<b>Date adopted</b>	27.6.2023
<b>Result of final vote</b>	+: 35 –: 0 0: 0
<b>Members present for the final vote</b>	Tiziana Beghin, Geert Bourgeois, Saskia Bricmont, Daniel Caspary, Arnaud Danjean, Paolo De Castro, Raphaël Glucksmann, Markéta Gregorová, Christophe Hansen, Danuta Maria Hübner, Danilo Oscar Lancini, Bernd Lange, Margarida Marques, Gabriel Mato, Emmanuel Maurel, Alessandra Mussolini, Carles Puigdemont i Casamajó, Samira Rafaela, Catharina Rinzema, Inma Rodríguez-Piñero, Katarína Roth Neved'álová, Ernő Schaller-Baross, Helmut Scholz, Sven Simon, Kathleen Van Brempt, Marie-Pierre Vedrenne, Jörgen Warborn, Iuliu Winkler
<b>Substitutes present for the final vote</b>	Mazaly Aguilar, Reinhard Bütikofer, Svenja Hahn, Michiel Hoogeveen, Seán Kelly, Miapetra Kumpula-Natri, Javier Moreno Sánchez
<b>Date tabled</b>	28.6.2023

## FINAL VOTE BY ROLL CALL IN COMMITTEE RESPONSIBLE

<b>35</b>	<b>+</b>
ECR	Mazaly Aguilar, Geert Bourgeois, Michiel Hoogeveen
ID	Danilo Oscar Lancini
NI	Tiziana Beghin, Carles Puigdemont i Casamajó, Ernő Schaller-Baross
PPE	Daniel Caspary, Arnaud Danjean, Christophe Hansen, Danuta Maria Hübner, Seán Kelly, Gabriel Mato, Alessandra Mussolini, Sven Simon, Jörgen Warborn, Iuliu Winkler
Renew	Svenja Hahn, Samira Rafaela, Catharina Rinzema, Marie-Pierre Vedrenne
S&D	Paolo De Castro, Raphaël Glucksmann, Miapetra Kumpula-Natri, Bernd Lange, Margarida Marques, Javier Moreno Sánchez, Inma Rodríguez-Piñero, Katarína Roth Neved'alová, Kathleen Van Brempt
The Left	Emmanuel Maurel, Helmut Scholz
Verts/ALE	Saskia Bricmont, Reinhard Bütikofer, Markéta Gregorová

<b>0</b>	<b>-</b>

<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

Key to symbols:

+ : in favour

- : against

0 : abstention