

Proposal for a Council Regulation adopting autonomous measures concerning the importation of fish and fishery products originating in the Slovak Republic

(2002/C 151 E/24)

COM(2002) 140 final — 2002/0065(ACC)

(Submitted by the Commission on 15 March 2002)

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

provided for in the new Additional Protocol to the Europe Agreement,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community, and in particular Article 133 thereof,

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

Having regard to the proposal from the Commission,

Article 1

Whereas:

1. The arrangements for the importation into the Community of fish and fishery products originating in the Slovak Republic, as set out in Articles 2 and 3 below, shall modify the Europe Agreement with the Slovak Republic.

(1) The Europe Agreement establishing an association between the European Communities and their Member States, of the one part, and the Slovak Republic, of the other part ⁽¹⁾, provides for certain concessions for fish and fishery products, which are listed in its Annex XV.

2. From the date of entry into force of the new Additional Protocol to the Europe Agreement with Slovakia, the concessions provided therein shall apply taking account of the implementation measures already adopted by both Parties, in a reciprocal manner, in advance of that date. Accordingly, on the date of entry into force of the Additional Protocol, its provisions shall replace and supersede the relevant provisions of this Regulation.

(2) Annex XV of the Europe Agreement has been replaced by the text contained in Annex I to the Protocol for the adaptation of the trade aspects of the Europe Agreement ⁽²⁾.

Article 2

(3) In accordance with the directives issued by the Council on 29 May 2000, negotiations with Slovakia on a new Additional Protocol to the Europe Agreement were concluded on 25 January 2001.

As from 1 January 2002, the Community shall eliminate the tariff duties applied to all the products covered by Annex XV of the Europe Agreement, as replaced by Annex I of the Protocol for the adaptation of the trade aspects of the Europe Agreement with the Slovak Republic.

(4) The new Additional Protocol, based on Article 21(5) and Article 24 of the Europe Agreement, provides for concessions on fish and fishery products.

Article 3

(5) A swift implementation of the agreement forms an essential part of the results of the negotiations for the conclusion of a new Additional Protocol to the Europe Agreement with Slovakia.

As from 1 January 2002, the Community shall apply a one-third reduction of the tariff duties on all other fish and fishery products, as defined in Article 1 of Council Regulation (EC) No 104/2000 ⁽³⁾.

(6) Slovakia will take all useful legislative provisions, on an autonomous basis, in order to enable the reciprocal and simultaneous implementation of concessions to the Community provided for in the Additional Protocol.

As from 1 January 2003, the Community shall apply a further one-third reduction of the tariff duties as they were at the time this Regulation became applicable.

(7) It is therefore appropriate for the Community to adopt autonomous measures introducing the concessions

Article 4

The calculation of the reductions mentioned in Article 3 will be carried out using common mathematical principles.

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 359, 31.12.1994, p. 2.

⁽²⁾ OJ L 306, 16.11.1998.

⁽³⁾ OJ L 17, 21.1.2000, p. 22.

In particular, the following rules shall apply:

- (a) all the figures which have less than 50 (included) after the decimal point shall be rounded down to the nearest whole number;
- (b) all the figures which have more than 50 after the decimal point shall be rounded up to the nearest whole number;
- (c) all the tariffs below 2 % shall automatically be fixed at 0 %.

Article 5

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

It shall apply from 1 January 2002.

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