



Council of the
European Union

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WTO 225
AGRI 407
VETER 61
SAN 256
COTRA 8

LEGISLATIVE ACTS AND OTHER INSTRUMENTS

Subject: COUNCIL DECISION authorising the opening of negotiations on an agreement with the United States of America regarding the importation of high-quality beef from animals not treated with certain growth-promoting hormones

COUNCIL DECISION

of ...

**authorising the opening of negotiations
on an agreement with the United States of America
regarding the importation of high-quality beef from animals
not treated with certain growth-promoting hormones**

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, and in particular the first subparagraph of Article 207(4), in conjunction with Article 218(3) and (4) thereof,

Having regard to the recommendation from the European Commission,

Whereas:

- (1) On 21 October 2013 the Union concluded the Revised Memorandum of Understanding with the United States of America Regarding the Importation of Beef from Animals Not Treated with Certain Growth-Promoting Hormones and Increased Duties applied by the United States to Certain Products of the European Union¹ (the 'revised MOU').
- (2) The revised MOU was concluded following World Trade Organization (WTO) dispute-settlement proceedings in case DS26 (EC – Measures concerning Meat and Meat Products (Hormones)) and was notified to the WTO Dispute Settlement Body on 14 April 2014.
- (3) Pursuant to the original MOU and its revised version, the Union opened an annual tariff-rate quota for high-quality beef in accordance with Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 481/2012².
- (4) The Union and the United States of America conducted consultations regarding the operation of the revised MOU, as provided for in Article IV thereof.

¹ OJ L 27, 30.1.2014, p. 2.

² Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 481/2012 of 7 June 2012 laying down rules for the management of a tariff quota for high-quality beef (OJ L 148, 8.6.2012, p. 9).

- (5) The Commission should therefore be authorised to open negotiations with the United States of America regarding the operation, including the country-allocation, of the tariff-rate quota opened pursuant to the revised MOU. The Commission should also seek the accord of other substantial supplying countries with regard to the country-allocation of that tariff-rate quota, in line with the applicable WTO rules, to the extent necessary,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

The Commission is hereby authorised to open negotiations on behalf of the Union with the United States of America concerning the operation of the tariff-rate quota opened pursuant to the Revised Memorandum of Understanding with the United States of America Regarding the Importation of Beef from Animals Not Treated with Certain Growth-Promoting Hormones and Increased Duties applied by the United States to Certain Products of the European Union of 21 October 2013, including the country-allocation of that tariff-rate quota with a view to a definitive resolution of the WTO dispute in case DS26 (EC – Measures concerning Meat and Meat Products (Hormones)).

The Commission is hereby also authorised to open negotiations on behalf of the Union with other substantial supplying countries, to seek their accord as regards the country-allocation of the tariff-rate quota referred to in the first paragraph, in line with the applicable WTO rules, to the extent necessary.

Article 2

The negotiations shall be conducted on the basis of the negotiating directives of the Council set out in the addendum to this Decision.

Article 3

The Commission shall conduct negotiations in accordance with WTO rules and in consultation with the Trade Policy Committee as provided for in the third subparagraph of Article 207(3) TFEU.

Article 4

This Decision is addressed to the Commission.

Done at Brussels,

For the Council

The President
