Council of the European Union
General Secretariat

PUBLIC

Interinstitutional files:
2021/0297 (COD)

Brussels, 11 July 2025

WK 9735/2025 ADD 3

LIMITE

POLCOM
SPG

This is a paper intended for a specific community of recipients. Handling and further distribution are under the sole responsibility of community members.

WORKING DOCUMENT

From:	Presidency
To:	Trade Policy Committee (Generalised System of Preferences)
Subject:	Possible example of a TRQ safeguard solution for rice in GSP Regulation

Possible example of a TRQ safeguard solution for rice in GSP Regulation

A possible example:

STEP 1: Determine the historical average of imports: In 2025, the Commission will determine the average share and volume of rice imports on a yearly basis for each EBA country for the [X] year period [20XX-20XX]. Call the average share A, and the average volume B.

STEP 2: Check whether the safeguard has been triggered: If, after entry into force of the new GSP Regulation, in a given year the share of imports from an EBA beneficiary exceeds average share A by [X]%, the EU will automatically impose safeguard measures.

STEP 3: Impose safeguards measures: The safeguard measure will be a tariff rate quota or TRQ. This means that imports within the TRQ will be imported under the EBA regime, and once the TRQ is exhausted the MFN tariff will kick in. In terms of the size of the TRQ, the average volume of rice imports B determined in step 1 would be the most logical basis. This guarantees market stability and a continuation of historical access for EBA beneficiaries. The safeguard measure would be imposed for a period of [X].

A review clause would have to be provided to revise the historical averages A and B determined in step 1, if needed, after the Regulation has been applied for a period of time.

EXAMPLE

For example, imagine that the average yearly volume of imports from an EBA beneficiary is 10 000 tonnes/year over the period [20XX-20XX], representing an (again, imaginary) average share of 15% of overall EU imports of rice over that period.

If it is found in, say, the beginning of 2028 that the share of imports from that EBA beneficiary in 2027 exceeds the average share of 15% by [X]%, then the automatic safeguard is triggered. The Commission will then automatically impose a TRQ for a period of [X], which would be based on the historical yearly trade volume of 10 000 tonnes. This preserves historical trade while swiftly addressing the increase registered in 2027.

PUBLIC