






# Procedure file

Basic information	
NLE - Non-legislative enactments	2019/0196(NLE)
EU/Switzerland Agreement: modification of Switzerland's WTO concessions on meat not further prepared than seasoned	
Procedure completed	
Subject 3.10.05.01 Meat 6.20.01 Agreements and relations in the context of the World Trade Organization (WTO) 6.40.01 Relations with EEA/EFTA countries	
Geographical area Switzerland	

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	 <a href="#">International Trade</a>	 <a href="#">WARBORN Jürgen</a>	02/10/2019
		Shadow rapporteur	
		 <a href="#">DANTI Nicola</a>	
		 <a href="#">PAET Urmas</a>	
		 <a href="#">BOURGEOIS Geert</a>	
Council of the European Union	Council configuration	Meeting	Date
	<a href="#">Foreign Affairs</a>	<a href="#">3765</a>	13/07/2020
European Commission	Commission DG	Commissioner	
	<a href="#">Trade</a>	MALMSTRÖM Cecilia	

Key events			
24/09/2019	Preparatory document	COM(2019)0419	
21/10/2019	Legislative proposal published	12482/2019	
19/12/2019	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
21/04/2020	Vote in committee		
28/04/2020	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading	<a href="#">A9-0092/2020</a>	

17/06/2020	Results of vote in Parliament		
17/06/2020	Decision by Parliament	<a href="#">T9-0139/2020</a>	Summary
13/07/2020	Act adopted by Council after consultation of Parliament		
21/07/2020	Final act published in Official Journal		

### Technical information

Procedure reference	2019/0196(NLE)
Procedure type	NLE - Non-legislative enactments
Procedure subtype	Consent by Parliament
Other legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 159
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	INTA/9/01431

### Documentation gateway

Preparatory document		COM(2019)0419	24/09/2019	EC	
Document attached to the procedure		12483/2019	14/10/2019	CSL	
Legislative proposal		12482/2019	21/10/2019	CSL	
Committee draft report		<a href="#">PE646.756</a>	10/01/2020	EP	
Amendments tabled in committee		<a href="#">PE648.391</a>	26/02/2020	EP	
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading		<a href="#">A9-0092/2020</a>	28/04/2020	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading		<a href="#">T9-0139/2020</a>	17/06/2020	EP	Summary

### Final act

[Decision 2020/1067](#)  
[OJ L 233 21.07.2020, p. 0001](#)

## EU/Switzerland Agreement: modification of Switzerland's WTO concessions on meat not further prepared than seasoned

The European Parliament adopted by 682 votes to 2, with 4 abstentions, a legislative resolution on the draft Council decision on the conclusion of the Agreement in the form of an Exchange of Letters between the European Union and the Swiss Confederation in the context of negotiations under Article XXVIII of the GATT 1994 on the modification of Switzerland's WTO concessions with regard to seasoned meat.

In line with the recommendation made by the Committee on International Trade, the European Parliament gave its consent to the conclusion of the Agreement.

Some years ago when Switzerland was faced with a sharp increase in meat imports, including seasoned meat, the Swiss Parliament adopted a motion at the end of 2015 to reclassify certain seasoned meat, which led to a sharp increase in customs duties for the products in question. In 2017, the EU challenged this measure at the WTO, alleging its incompatibility with WTO rules.

In April 2018, Switzerland agreed that it had to compensate for the increase of tariff and launched a negotiation procedure under Article XXVIII of the GATT in order to modify the tariff concessions in its schedule for the meat not further prepared than seasoned.

At the end of 2018, the Council authorised the Commission to negotiate compensation. Switzerland proposed to increase its WTO tariff rate quota for beef by 1 200 tonnes as compensation. Within this tariff quota, Switzerland committed itself in particular to allocate a specific sub-quota of 600 tonnes for seasoned meat. A new tariff line has been created for this purpose. Switzerland also maintains the previously agreed reduced duty for beef imported for the purposes of processing into dry meat.

A draft agreement was initialled in July 2019. On 24 October, the Council adopted a decision on the signing of the agreement, which was signed on 9 December 2019 in Brussels.

By exchange of letters, the EU and Switzerland agreed on the amendments to be incorporated in the Swiss schedule of commitments: new tariffs (including for dry beef meat) and the increased tariff quota from 22 500 tonnes (current) to 23 700 tonnes.