

COMPETITIVENESS AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS

Sectoral Committee
Weekly Update
12.02.10

Contents



COM(2010) 49

EU-Korea Free Trade Agreement

Pg 2



COM(2010)43

Progress report on Directive 1999/5/EC

Pg 2



Competitiveness

informal meeting of ministers

Pg 3



**COM(2010) 49 - Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council:
implementing the bilateral safeguard clause of the EU-Korea Free Trade Agreement**

The EU-Korea Free Trade Agreement, which was initialled on the 15th October 2009, incorporates a bilateral safeguard clause that provides for the possibility to reimpose the MFN rate¹ when as a result of a trade liberalisation imports take place in such increased quantities, in absolute terms or relative to domestic production, and under such conditions as to cause or threaten to cause serious injury to the Union Industry producing the like or directly competitive product.

In order for these measures to be operational, such safeguard clause must be incorporated in European Union law because the procedural aspects of the imposition of safeguard measures as well as the rights of interested parties, such as the right of defence, need to be specified. The proposal in question constitutes the legal instrument for the implementation of the safeguard clause of the EU-Korea free trade agreement.

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2010:0049:FIN:EN:PDF>

**COM(2010)43 – Report from the Commission to the Council and the European Parliament:
Second progress report on the operation of Directive on radio equipment and
telecommunications terminal equipment and the mutual recognition of their conformity**

Directive 1999/5/EC on radio equipment and telecommunications terminal equipment and the mutual recognition of their conformity establishes a framework for the placing on the market, free movement and putting into service in the European Union of radio equipment and telecommunications terminal equipment.

This 2nd progress report is being issued according to Article 17 of the Directive which calls for the Commission to periodically report on the operation of the Directive and cover progress on drawing up the relevant standards as well as any problems that have arisen in the course of implementation. This report draws attention to some difficulties in the operation of the Directive in view to achieve its desired effects.

In its conclusion the Commission maintains that while overall the regulatory framework set up by the Directive has allowed to achieve its intended goals, there are two main issues that merit an in-depth investigation: market entrance for innovative radio technologies due to the existing process for putting in place the necessary regulatory decisions concerning spectrum use and harmonised standards, and the traceability of the manufacturer or the person responsible for placing products on the market.

Possible remedies will be addressed in a comprehensive Impact Assessment in the context of a future revision of the Directive, for which a Commission proposal is scheduled this year.

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2010:0043:FIN:EN:PDF>

¹ This refers to the WTO “Most Favoured Nation” principle. The principle prohibits countries from discriminating between their trading partners - if a country improves the benefits that it gives to one trading partner, it has to give the same “best” treatment to all the other WTO members so that they all remain “most-favoured”.

Informal meeting of ministers in charge of competitiveness issues

During a three day meeting held between the 7th and 9th February in San Sebastián, Spain, Ministers discussed:

- the interdisciplinary practice between science, technology and art,
- the coming challenges with regard to the initiation of the European Research Space,
- the role which science can play in economic growth and recovery,
- electric vehicles, and
- how to promote the image of the EU as a leader in research and development