

COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

COM(82) 705 final

Brussels, 29 October 1982

Proposal for a

COUNCIL REGULATION (EEC)

making the importation into Greece of certain jute products originating in Bangladesh or India subject to quantitative limitation

(submitted to the Council by the Commission)

COM(82) 705 final

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

I. Two Agreements are in force between the Community on the one hand and India and Bangladesh on the other covering trade in jute products. These Agreements involve, inter alia, voluntary restraint by these two countries in their exports of these products to the Community for the duration of the Agreements, that is until 31 December 1983. In addition, the Community undertook to discontinue all quantitative restrictions on imports after the expiration of these Agreements, that is from 1 January 1984.

In order to adapt these Agreements to the Accession of Greece to the Community, the Council authorised the Commission to start negotiations with India and Bangladesh. As these Agreements contain voluntary restraint limits, the administration of which is entrusted to the exporting countries, the amount of these limits in the case of Greece must be agreed with the exporting third countries.

II. As these negotiations were not concluded by the end of 1981, unilateral measures were adopted for 1982 so as to align arrangements for the importation into Greece of the products in question with those in force in the Community as a result of the Agreements; limits on imports into Greece of jute products for which there are Community quantitative restrictions in the Agreements with Bangladesh and India were therefore laid down by Council Regulation (EEC) No 541/82 of 8 March 1982 (1).

III. Negotiations have continued during 1982 but it has not proved possible to reach a solution; the exporting countries feel that they cannot agree to limit their exports of certain products (given that there were no restrictions on imports into Greece before its accession to the Community) unless they can enjoy the full tariff benefits accorded by the Community under the Agreements; this tariff problem arises from the fact that the Community undertook in the Agreements with India and Bangladesh to apply on a unilateral basis under the GSP a zero import duty on all jute products.

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(1) OJ No L 66, 10.3.1982, p.1

However, in the case of Greece, jute products are among the products for which a progressive alignment on the Community GSP is envisaged in the Act of Accession (products listed in Annex VII). Since it has not been possible to reach a negotiated solution, the unilateral arrangements must be extended for 1983 on the understanding that if the negotiations do succeed those arrangements would be replaced by new provisions reflecting the outcome of those negotiations.

It is proposed, however, that the quantitative limits be increased appreciably in 1983 compared with the 1982 levels. The increases meet with the wishes expressed by the exporting countries and the Commission believes they are acceptable.

IV. Consequently, the Commission recommends that the Council adopt the following regulation.

I

(Acts whose publication is obligatory)

**Proposal for a
COUNCIL REGULATION (EEC)**

**making the importation into Greece of certain jute products originating in
Bangladesh or India subject to quantitative limitation**

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN
COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European
Economic Community, and in particular Article 113
thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the Commission,

Whereas Agreements on trade in jute products have
been negotiated between the Community on the one
hand and Bangladesh and India on the other, provi-
ding for voluntary restraint of exports of certain of
these products to the Community;

Whereas by Regulation (EEC) No 541/82⁽¹⁾, the
Council made the importation into Greece of certain
jute products originating in Bangladesh or India
subject to quantitative limitation so as to align the
rules for imports into that Member State as closely as
possible on those applying in the other Member States
of the Community; whereas these arrangements were
introduced pending the outcome of the current nego-
tiations with Bangladesh and India to adapt the said
Agreements to take account of the accession of the
Hellenic Republic to the Community;

Whereas, since these negotiations have not yet been
concluded, it proves necessary to maintain, as a transi-
tional measure, pending their conclusion, the rules in

force for Greece in 1982, with a increase in the
level of quantitative limits on imports,

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

Article 1

From 1 January to 31 December 1983 imports into
Greece of the jute products listed in the Annex and
originating in Bangladesh or India shall be subject to
this Regulation.

Article 2

Imports into Greece of the jute products listed in the
Annex shall be subject to an import authorization to
be issued by the Greek authorities up to the quantita-
tive limits indicated in the Annex.

Article 3

Products admitted into Greece under inward proces-
sing or other suspensory arrangements shall not,
provided that they are declared under such arrange-
ments to be for re-export from that territory to a third
country in their original state or after processing, be
set off against the quantitative limits referred to in
Article 2.

Article 4

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

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

Done at Brussels,

*For the Council
The President*

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 66 of 10.3.1982, p. 1

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ANNEX

Quantitative limits for imports into Greece of certain jute products originating in Bangladesh and India

Quantitative limits 1983

(tonnes)

Category	CCT heading No	NIMEXE code	Description	Bangladesh	India
4	57.10 B	57.10-62	Woven fabrics of jute or of other bast fibres of heading No 57.03 : ex B. Of a width of more than 150 cm but not more than 310 cm, other than those of category 7	200	600
7	57.10 B	57.10-70	Woven fabrics of jute or of other textile bast fibres of heading No 57.03 : ex B. Of a width of more than 150 cm, wholly or partially bleached, dyed or printed and having no visible selvage in the width	100	300