

COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

COM(74) 1698 final

Brussels, 23 October 1974

PROPOSAL FOR A COUNCIL REGULATION (EEC)

temporarily suspending the autonomous duties under the
Common Customs Tariff on a number of agricultural products

(submitted to the Council by the Commission)

EXPLANATORY NOTES

1. The Community processing industry has a requirement for fish roes used for the production of caviar substitutes and for canning. Roes are not sufficiently available inside the Community. As a result of this, the Community is dependent on imports of this item from third countries. Imports into Denmark, whose government has requested a suspension of the common customs tariff, are respectively, for frozen roes, 2,214 tonnes from third countries and 134 tonnes from the Community and, for salted roes, 600 tonnes from third countries.

The burden of Customs duties for this product (Danish customs duty : 6 %; CCT:10 %) constitutes an impediment to the competitiveness of the industries concerned. No change in this situation is foreseen in the near future. Therefore, the Commission considers that the total suspension of the duty of the common customs tariff, which has received a unanimous favourable reaction from the officials of the other member states, for a period of six months, is adequate.

2. The needs of the Community for dried white beans intended for the production of canned baked beans, cannot be covered by the Community harvest. For this reason, the United Kingdom will have to meet its needs for these vegetables which amount to 82,000 tonnes for the year 1974 by imports from third countries (Canada : 54,000 tonnes, U.S.A. : 28,000 tonnes). White dried beans were subject to serious price increases in 1973 and because of the inadequacy of the harvest, these prices continue to rise in 1974. The suspension of the duty would allow the producers of baked beans to keep the eventual price rises down to the minimum, in line with the desire to control inflation. In these circumstances, it would seem appropriate for the Commission to act upon the United Kingdom request for total suspension of the duty for six months, which has received a unanimous favourable response from the officials of the other Member States.

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3. The Community processing industry has to supply itself with fresh or dried dates for the production of sances, pickles and various types of bakery products, by imports from third countries. For the British industry alone, 10,000 tonnes of this product are imported annually from Iran and Iraq. One of the Member States is concerned that these dates may, regretablely, be used for wine production, this can be avoided by a special destination clause and a strict control of destination by national Administrations. In the interests of the competitiveness of Community industry mentioned above, it seems to be now oportune to suspend totally the duty of the common customs tariff (12 %) for this product for a period of six months.
4. The Community's processing industry is in urgent need of bitter or Seville oranges, which cannot sufficiently covered by the Community harvest; as a result some Member States have become dependant on large quantities of these fruit from third countries, as shown by the following import figures for the Federal Republic of Germany and the Benelux countries.

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY 1972 (tonnes)

Requirements	Production	Deliveries from the Community	Importations from third countries
152.4	-	14.9	137.5

BENELUX COUNTRIES 1972 (tonnes)

343	-	-	343
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The customs duties chargeable on the importation of these fruits (1 April - 15 October; 16 October - 31 March : 20 %) are reducing the competitiveness of the Community's industry concerned. As this situation may not be expected to change in the near future, the Commission considers it necessary to prolong until 30 June 1975 - as requested by the German and Benelux Governments - the existing partial Common Customs Tariff duties suspension for these fruits which is due to expire on 31 December 1974.

Taking into account the suspension of the duties of the Common Customs Tariff for the products concerned, the new Member States should suspend their tariffs for the period envisaged in conformity with Article 39 paragraph 2 of the Act concerning the conditions of Accession.

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THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community, and
in particular Article 43 thereof;

Having regard to the proposal from the Commission;

Having regard to the Opinion of the European Parliament;

Whereas production in the Community of the products specified in this
Regulation is currently inadequate or non-existent and whereas producers
thus cannot meet the needs of user industries in the Community;

Whereas it is in the interest of the Community to suspend the relevant
autonomous duties under the Common Customs Tariff, partially in the case of
certain goods produced in the Community and totally in other cases;

Whereas, in view of the difficulty of assessing accurately short-term trends
in the economic situation in the relevant sectors, suspension measures should
be taken only for temporary periods the length of which is to be determined
by reference to the interests of Community production;

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION :

Article 1

From 1 January to 31 December 1975 the autonomous duties set out in the Common
Customs Tariff for the products listed in the Annex to this Regulation shall
be suspended at the level indicated in respect of each of them.

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Article 2

This Regulation shall enter into force on 1 January 1975.

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

Done at Brussels,

For the Council

The President

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ANNEX

CCT heading No	description of goods	autonomous CCT duties
ex 03.01 C	Roes, fresh, chilled or frozen	total suspension
ex 03.02 C	Roes, salted	total suspension
ex 07.05 B I	Beans, dried, leguminous, white (of the species phaseolus) intended for the production of canned baked bean products	total suspension
ex 08.01 A	Dates, fresh or dried, intended for the processing industry	total suspension
ex 08.02 A II	Bitter or seville oranges, fresh or dried	8 %