

European Community



European Community Information Service
350 Sparks Street, suite 1110, Ottawa, Ontario K1R 7S8

BACKGROUND NOTE

EC WORRIED ABOUT POSSIBLE INCREASE OF FOOTWEAR IMPORTS

The EC Commission has indicated its concern about a possible increase of footwear exports from South Korea, Hong Kong and Taiwan to the Common Market, following measures taken by some developed countries, such as Australia, Canada, Japan and the United States, to limit imports from these countries. The EC does not envisage any measures to curb the normal development of trade. As it could not, however, remain indifferent to a massive diversion of surplus footwear exports to the EC, it intends to monitor import statistics.

It is estimated that the restrictions taken in the past 12 months by developed countries, although their tariffs are two or three times higher than the Community's, have produced a potential surplus of 50 to 100 million pairs of shoes in low-wage countries.

Moreover, the curbs, in most cases, are applied generally, thus narrowing the market for Community footwear, especially from Italy.

Imports of all footwear by the Community (million of pairs)

	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977
Total extra-Community	181	178	186	231	300
South Korea	7	10	13	21	30
Hong Kong	37	26	27	35	48
Taiwan	30	24	25	42	62

NR (78) 12
28 March