

COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

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COM(79) 473 final

Brussels, 7 September 1979

Proposal for a
COUNCIL REGULATION (EEC)

opening, allocating and providing for the administration of Community
tariff quotas for prepared or preserved sardines, falling
within subheading 16.04 D of the Common Customs
Tariff and originating in Morocco (1980)

Proposal for a
COUNCIL REGULATION (EEC)

opening, allocating and providing for the administration of a Community
tariff quota for prepared or preserved sardines, falling
within subheading 16.04 D of the Common Customs
Tariff and originating in Tunisia (1980)

(submitted to the Council by the Commission)

COM(79) 473 final



EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

1. The 1978 Agreements between the Community and Morocco and Tunisia provide that prepared and preserved sardines originating in those countries may be admitted duty free into the Community on condition that certain minimum prices are respected. The periods and the technical rules for application of this system must be fixed by exchanges of letters between the contracting parties. Since these exchanges of letters have not taken place the arrangements provided for in the Agreements were not implemented and those arising from the previous Association Agreements between the EEC and Morocco and Tunisia were maintained in force until 31 December 1977.

The former arrangements in question provide for tariff treatment which varies from one Member State to another. This treatment cannot be extended beyond that date, since it is incompatible with the principles of the customs union and the rules of the common commercial policy.

2. From 1 January 1978 the Community replaced these arrangements by a Community tariff quota system which takes the interests involved into account pending the conclusion of the exchanges of letters which will enable the provisions of the 1978 Agreements relating to prepared and preserved sardines to come into force.
3. As the situation has not changed since _____ the Commission is proposing that the Council extend the tariff quota system for 1980 and therefore approve the two attached proposals for Regulations on the opening, allocation and administration of Community tariff quotas in respect of prepared and preserved sardines falling within subheading 16.04 D of the Common Customs Tariff originating in Morocco and Tunisia respectively, i.e. :
 - for Morocco : - one tariff quota of 14.000 tonnes, duty free,
- one tariff quota of 6.000 tonnes at 10% ;
 - for Tunisia : one tariff quota of 100 tonnes, duty free.

This is the subject of the annexed proposals.

4. The proposals for regulations opening these tariff quotas provide - as is customary - for the division of each of the quota volumes into two instalments, the first being allocated among the Member States as quota shares, the second being held as a reserve.

The allocation of the volume of the first instalment of the quota should be based on the rules generally applied. These involve calculating each Member State's total imports over the last three years as a proportion of total Community imports during the same period and applying, for each Member State the percentages thus obtained to the volume of the first instalment.

IMPORTATIONS OF PREPARED AND CONSERVED SARDINES
ORIGINATING IN MOROCCO AND TUNISIA

- in tonnes -

Member State	MOROCCO				TUNISIA			
	1975	1976	1977	1978	1975	1976	1977	1978
Bx	1 713	2 107	1 479	1 335	-	-	-	-
DK	54	58	78	105	-	-	-	-
D	1 640	4 310	1 168	1 626	-	-	-	-
F	8 625	10 438	7 322	6 603	33	14	-	-
IRL	78	79	42	42	-	-	-	-
IT	223	4	20	88	-	-	-	-
UK	2 439	1 528	1 126	1 531	-	-	-	-
C.E.	14 772	18 524	11 235	11 330	33	14	-	-

Proposal for a
COUNCIL REGULATION (EEC) No. 179

of

opening, allocating and providing for the administration of Community tariff quotas for prepared or preserved sardines, falling within subheading 16.04 D of the Common Customs Tariff and originating in Morocco (1980)

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 the Cooperation Agreement between the Community and Morocco provides that prepared and preserved sardines, falling within subheading 16.04 D of the Common Customs Tariff and originating in Morocco, may be imported into the Community free of duties; whereas the detailed arrangements must be fixed by an exchange of letters between the Community and Morocco; whereas, since this exchange of letters has not yet taken place, it is advisable to renew for the year 1980 the Community arrangements which were applied in 1979 whereas these arrangements provide for the opening of two Community tariff quotas for importations into the Community of the products in question, one duty-free tariff quota of 14 000 tonnes and the other of 6 000 tonnes at a rate of duty of 10%; whereas these tariff quotas are to apply from 1 January 1980 until the conclusion of the exchange of letters provided for in Article 19 of the Cooperation Agreement between the Community and Morocco, until such time as Community arrangements for imports of the products in question are applied, or until 31 December 1980 whichever shall be the earliest; whereas these Community tariff quotas should therefore be opened;

Whereas it is in particular necessary to ensure for all Community importers equal and uninterrupted access to the abovementioned quotas and uninterrupted application of the rates laid down for these quotas to all imports of the products concerned into all Member States until the quotas have been used up; whereas, having regard to the principles mentioned above, the Community nature of the quotas can be respected by allocating the Community tariff quotas among the Member States; whereas, in order to reflect as accurately as possible the true trend of the market in the products in question, such allocation should be in proportion to the requirements of the Member States,

calculated by reference to the statistics for imports from Morocco over a representative reference period and also to the economic outlook for the quota period in question;

Whereas, during the last three years for which statistics are available the corresponding imports into each of the Member States represent the following percentages of the imports into the Community from Morocco of the products concerned:

Member States	%		
	1976	1977	1978
Benelux	11.4	13.2	11.8
Denmark	0.3	0.7	0.9
Germany	23.3	10.4	14.4
France	56.3	65.1	58.2
Ireland	0.4	0.4	0.4
Italy	0.1	0.2	0.8
United Kingdom	8.2	10.0	13.5

Whereas, in view of these factors and of the estimates submitted by certain Member States, initial shares may be fixed approximately at the following percentages:

Member States	%	
	of the quota of 14 000 tonnes	of the quota of 6 000 tonnes
Benelux	13.49	9.54
Denmark	0.28	0.28
Germany	13.33	13.33
France	59.52	42.59
Ireland	0.36	0.37
Italy	0.64	1.48
United Kingdom	12.38	32.41

Whereas, in order to take into account import trends for the products concerned in the various Member States, each quota should be divided into two instalments, the first being shared among the Member States and the second constituting a reserve to cover at a later date the requirements of the Member States which have used up their initial quota shares; whereas, in

ANNEX A

order to give importers in each Member State a certain degree of security, the first instalment of the Community quotas should, under the circumstances, be fixed at 90% of the quota volumes;

Whereas the Member States' initial shares may be used up at different times; whereas, in order to take this fact into account and avoid any break in continuity, any Member State which has almost used up its initial quota shares should draw an additional share from the corresponding reserve; whereas this must be done by each Member State as and when each of its additional shares is almost used up, and repeated as many times as the reserve allows; whereas the initial and additional shares must be valid until the end of the quota period; whereas this method of administration requires close cooperation between the Member States and the Commission, and the latter must be in a position to monitor the extent to which the quota amounts have been used up and to inform Member States thereof;

Whereas if, at a given date in the quota period, a substantial quantity remains unused in any Member State it is essential that that Member State should return a significant proportion to the corresponding reserve, to prevent a part of any tariff quota from remaining unused in one Member State when it could be used in others;

Whereas, since the Kingdom of Belgium, the Kingdom of the Netherlands and the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg are united in and represented by the Benelux Economic Union, any operation relating to the administration of the quota shares allocated to that economic union may be carried out by any of its members,

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

Article 1

1. From 1 January 1980 until the conclusion of the exchange of letters referred to in Article 19 of the Cooperation Agreement between the Community and Morocco, until such time as Community import arrangements are applied or until 31 December 1980, whichever shall be the earliest, a duty-free Community tariff quota of 14 000 tonnes shall be opened for imports into the Community of prepared or preserved sardines, falling with subheading 16.04 D of the Common Customs Tariff and originating in Morocco.

2. From 1 January 1980 until the conclusion of the exchange of letters referred to in Article 19 of the Cooperation Agreement between the Community and Morocco, until such time as Community import arrangements are applied or until 31 December 1980, whichever shall be the earliest, a Community tariff quota of 6 000 tonnes at a duty rate of 10% shall be opened for imports into the Community of prepared or preserved sardines, falling within subheading 16.04 D of the Common Customs Tariff and originating in Morocco.

Article 2

1. The tariff quotas laid down in Article 1 shall be divided into two instalments.
2. A first instalment of each quota shall be shared among the Member States; the respective shares, which subject to Article 5 shall be valid until the end of the period specified in Article 1, shall be as follows:

Member States	(tonnes)	
	Article 1 (1)	Article 1 (2)
Benelux	1 700	515
Denmark	35	15
Germany	1 680	720
France	7 500	2 300
Ireland	45	20
Italy	80	80
United Kingdom	1 560	1 750
Total	12 600	5 400

3. The second instalment of each quota amounting to 1 400 and 600 tonnes respectively shall constitute the corresponding reserve.

Article 3

1. If 90% or more of a Member State's initial share as specified in Article 2 (2), or 90% of that share minus the portion returned to the corresponding reserve where Article 5 has been applied, has been used up, then, to the extent permitted by the amount of the reserve, that Member State shall forthwith, by notifying the Commission, draw a second share equal to 10% of its initial share, rounded up where necessary to the next unit.
2. If, after one of its initial shares has been used up, 90% or more of the second share drawn by a Member State has been used up, then that Member State shall, in

ANNEX A

accordance with the conditions laid down in paragraph 1, draw a third share equal to 5% of its initial share, rounded up where necessary to the next unit.

3. If, after its second share has been used up, 90% or more of the third share drawn by a Member State has been used up, that Member State shall, in accordance with the conditions laid down in paragraph 1, draw a fourth share equal to the third.

This process shall continue until the reserve is used up.

4. By way of derogation from paragraphs 1, 2 and 3, a Member State may draw shares smaller than those fixed in those paragraphs if there is reason to believe that they might not be used up. It shall inform the Commission of its reasons for applying this paragraph.

Article 4

Each of the additional shares drawn pursuant to Article 3 shall be valid until 31 December 1979.

Article 5

The Member States shall return to the reserve, not later than 1 October 1980 such unused portion of their initial share as, on 15 September 1980 is in excess of 20% of the initial volume. They may return a larger quantity if there are grounds for believing that this quantity may not be used.

The Member States shall notify the Commission, not later than 1 October 1980, of the total quantities of the products in question imported up to 15 September 1980 and charged against the tariff quota and of any quantity of the initial shares returned to the reserve.

Article 6

The Commission shall keep an account of the shares opened by the Member States pursuant to Article 2 and

3 and, as soon as it is notified, shall inform each State of the extent to which the reserves have been used up.

It shall inform the Member States, not later than 5 October 1980 of the amount in each reserve after quantities have been returned thereto pursuant to Article 5.

It shall ensure that the drawing which exhausts any reserve does not exceed the balance available and, to this end, shall notify the amount of that balance to the Member State making the last drawing.

Article 7

1. The Member States shall take all measures necessary to ensure that additional shares drawn pursuant to Article 3 are opened in such a way that imports may be charged without interruption against their accumulated shares of the tariff quota.

2. The Member States shall ensure that importers of the products in question established in their territory have free access to the shares allocated to them.

3. The extent to which a Member State has used up its shares shall be determined on the basis of the imports of the products concerned originating in Morocco and entered with customs authorities for home use.

Article 8

At the Commission's request, the Member States shall inform it of imports of the products concerned actually charged against their shares.

Article 9

The Member States and the Commission shall cooperate closely to ensure that this Regulation is complied with.

Article 10

This Regulation shall enter into force on 1 January 1980.

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

Done at Brussels,

For the Council
The President

Proposal for a
COUNCIL REGULATION (EEC) No 179

of

opening, allocating and providing for the administration of a Community tariff quota for prepared or preserved sardines, falling within subheading 16.04 D of the Common Customs Tariff and originating in Tunisia (1980)

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 the Cooperation Agreement between the Community and Tunisia provides that prepared and preserved sardines, falling within subheading 16.04 D of the Common Customs Tariff and originating in Tunisia, may be imported into the Community free of duties; whereas the detailed arrangements must be fixed by an exchange of letters between the Community and Tunisia; whereas, since this exchange of letters has not yet taken place, it is advisable to renew for the year 1980 the Community arrangements which were applied in 1979; whereas these arrangements provide for the opening of a Community tariff quota for importation into the Community of the products in question, of 100 tonnes free of duty; whereas these tariff quotas are to apply from 1 January 1980 until the conclusion of the exchange of letters provided for in Article 18 of the Cooperation Agreement between the Community and Tunisia, until such time as Community arrangements for imports of the products in question are applied, or until 31 December 1980 whichever shall be the earliest; whereas these Community tariff quotas should therefore be opened;

Whereas it is in particular necessary to ensure for all Community importers equal and uninterrupted access to the abovementioned quota and uninterrupted application of the rate laid down for that quota to all imports of the products concerned into all Member States until the quota has been used up; whereas, having regard to the above principles, the Community nature of the quota can be respected by allocating the Community tariff quota among the Member States; whereas, in order to reflect as accurately as possible the true trend of the market in the products in question, such allocation should be in proportion to the requirements of the Member States, calculated by reference to the statistics for imports from Tunisia over

a representative reference period and also to the economic outlook for the quota period in question;

Whereas, during the last three years for which statistics are available, the corresponding imports into each of the Member States represent the following percentages of imports into the Community from Tunisia of the products concerned:

Member States	1976	1977	1978
Benelux	—	—	—
Denmark	—	—	—
Germany	—	—	—
France	100 (=14t)	—	—
Ireland	—	—	—
Italy	—	—	—
United Kingdom	—	—	—

Whereas these data cannot be considered as representative and cannot serve as a basis for allocation of the quota among the Member States; whereas it is difficult to forecast the Member States' imports for 1980 because of the absence of any pattern in previous years; whereas in order that the quota may be allocated fairly, the initial quota shares may be fixed approximately at the following percentages:

Benelux	10%
Denmark	3%
Germany	15%
France	50%
Ireland	3%
Italy	4%
United Kingdom	15%

Whereas, in order to take into account import trends for the products concerned in the various Member States, each of the quota amounts should be divided into two instalments, the first being shared among the Member States and the second constituting a reserve to cover at a later date the requirements of the Member States which have used up their initial quota shares; whereas, in order to give importers in each Member

ANNEX B

State a certain degree of security, the first instalment of the Community quota might under the circumstances be fixed at 80% of the quota volume;

Whereas the Member States' initial shares may be used up at different times; whereas, in order to take this fact into account and avoid any break in continuity, any Member State which has almost used up its initial quota share should draw an additional share from the reserve; whereas this must be done by each Member State as and when each of its additional shares is almost used up, and repeated as many times as the reserve allows; whereas the initial and additional shares must be valid until the end of the quota period; whereas this method of administration requires close cooperation between the Member States and the Commission, and the latter must be in a position to monitor the extent to which the quota volume has been used up and to inform the Member States thereof;

Whereas if, at a given date in the quota period, a substantial quantity of an initial share remains unused in any Member State, it is essential that that Member State should return a significant proportion to the reserve to prevent a part of any tariff quota from remaining unused in one Member State when it could be used in others;

Whereas, since the Kingdom of Belgium, the Kingdom of the Netherlands and the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg are united in and represented by the Benelux Economic Union, any operation relating to the administration of the quota shares allocated to that economic union may be carried out by any of its members,

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

Article 1

From 1 January 1980 until the conclusion of the exchange of letters referred to in Article 18 of the Cooperation Agreement between the Community and Tunisia, until such time as Community import arrangements are applied, or until 31 December 1980 whichever shall be the earliest, a duty-free Community tariff quota of 100 tonnes shall be opened for imports into the Community of prepared or preserved sardines, falling within subheading 16.04 D of the Common Customs Tariff and originating in Tunisia.

Article 2

1. The Tariff quota referred to in Article 1 shall be divided into two instalments.

2. A first instalment amounting to 80 tonnes of the Community tariff quota referred to in Article 1 shall be allocated among the Member States; the shares, which subject to Article 5 shall be valid until the end of the period specified in Article 1, shall be as follows:

	<i>(tonnes)</i>
Benelux	8
Denmark	2
Germany	12
France	40
Ireland	2
Italy	4
United Kingdom	12

3. The second instalment of 20 tonnes shall constitute the reserve.

Article 3

1. If 90% or more of a Member State's initial share as specified in Article 2 (2), or 90% of that share minus the portion returned to the reserve where Article 5 has been applied, has been used up, then, to the extent permitted by the amount of the reserve, that Member State shall forthwith, by notifying the Commission, draw a second share equal to 15% of its initial share, rounded up where necessary to the next unit.

2. If, after one of its initial shares has been used up, 90% or more of the second share drawn by a Member State has been used up, then, to the extent permitted by the amount of the reserve, that Member State shall, in accordance with the conditions laid down in paragraph 1, draw a third share equal to 7.5% of its initial share, rounded up where necessary to the next unit.

3. If, after one of its second shares has been used up, 90% or more of the third share drawn by a Member State has been used up, that Member State shall, in accordance with the conditions laid down in paragraph 1, draw a fourth share equal to the third.

This process shall continue until the reserve is used up.

4. By way of derogation from paragraphs 1, 2 and 3, a Member State may draw shares smaller than those fixed in those paragraphs if there is reason to believe that they might not be used up. It shall inform the Commission of its reasons for applying this paragraph.

Article 4

The additional shares drawn pursuant to Article 3 shall be valid until the end of the period specified in Article 1.

ANNEX B

Article 5

The Member States shall return to the reserve, not later than 1 October 1980 such unused portion of their initial share as, on 15 September 1980 is in excess of 20% of the initial volume. They may return a larger quantity if there are grounds for believing that this quantity may not be used.

The Member States shall notify the Commission, not later than 1 October 1980 of the total quantities of the products in question imported up to 15 September 1980 and charged against the tariff quota and of any quantity of the initial shares returned to the reserve.

Article 6

The Commission shall keep an account of the shares opened by the Member States pursuant to Articles 2 and 3 and, as soon as it is notified, shall inform each Member State of the extent to which the reserve has been used up.

It shall inform the Member States, not later than 5 October 1980 of the amount in the reserve after quantities have been returned thereto pursuant to Article 5.

It shall ensure that the drawing which exhausts any reserve does not exceed the balance available and, to this end, notify the amount of that balance to the Member State making the last drawing.

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

Done at Brussels,

Article 7

1. The Member States shall take all measures necessary to ensure that additional shares drawn pursuant to Article 3 are opened in such a way that imports may be charged without interruption against their accumulated shares of the tariff quota.

2. The Member States shall ensure that importers of the products in question established in their territory have free access to the shares allocated to them.

3. The extent to which a Member State has used up its shares shall be determined on the basis of the imports of the products in question originating in Tunisia entered with customs authorities for home use.

Article 8

At the Commission's request, the Member States shall inform it of imports of the products concerned actually charged against their shares.

Article 9

The Member States and the Commission shall cooperate closely to ensure that this Regulation is complied with.

Article 10

This Regulation shall enter into force on 1 January 1980.

For the Council

The President

