

COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

COM(80) 480 final
URGH
Brussels, 29 July 1980

PROPOSAL FOR A COUNCIL REGULATION (EEC)
amending Regulation (EEC) No 950/68 on the Common
Customs Tariff

(Submitted to the Council by the Commission)

COM(80) 480 final

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

1. Introduction

- 1.1. By Regulation (EEC) No 950/68 of 28 June 1968 (1), the Council adopted, in the form of an Annex to that Regulation, the Common Customs Tariff as applicable on that date, that is to say taking into account the various autonomous regulations or decisions in force as well as the Community's commitments towards third countries.
- 1.2. As from 1 January 1970, this Regulation (EEC) No 950/68, has been annually subject to an amending regulation of the Council in the form of a further updated "Common Customs Tariff" Annex. This should likewise be the case on 1 January 1981.
- 1.3. In order to enable all Member States and all users to have an up-to-date Regulation in the official languages of the Community, it is proposed that the Council should adopt, on the basis of Articles 28 and 113 of the Treaty, the Common Customs Tariff in the form of a Regulation amending Regulation (EEC) No 950/68 of 28 June 1968.

For practical reasons, only the pages of the Common Customs Tariff (in its current Official Journal version) which are the subject of amendments, including those of a minor editorial nature, appear in Annex. In the edition which will be published in the Official Journal, the Common Customs Tariff will nevertheless appear in its entirety.

2. Amendments set out in this draft Regulation, as compared with the text in force on 1 January 1980

2.1. Amendments resulting from international commitments

- 2.1.1. The General Agreement concluded in 1979 as a result of the multilateral trade negotiations which took place within the GATT in Geneva, contains a list of concessions in the agricultural and industrial sectors.

(1) OJ No L 172, 22.7.1968, p.1

- 2.1.2. This draft takes account of provisions laid down for the implementation of the said concessions by equal annual reductions from 1.1.1980, with certain exceptions.
- 2.1.3. As laid down for each reduction phase, the intermediate rate has been rounded to the nearest first decimal point, it being understood that the rate so rounded will not exceed the intermediate rate, when not rounded, by more than 0.05%.
- 2.1.4. It should be noted that the concessions on the following products:
- citric acid (29.16 A IV a))
 - tetraethyl-lead (29.34 B)
and lead-based anti-knock preparations (38.14 A and 38.14 B II)
 - textiles (Chapters 51 to 62)
 - ceramics: reductions up to zero of the specific minimum duty for those products falling within Chapter 69 to which such a minimum duty applies and for tariff subheading 85.25 A
 - steel (headings Nos 73.01 to 73.20)
 - titanium (81.04 K I and K II)
- will be implemented in the following manner:
- first phase of the reductions on 1.1.1982, 1983, 1984
 - second phase of the reductions spread over three years and therefore excluded from this draft.
- 2.1.5. With regard to the concessions for chemicals (with certain exceptions) falling within Chapters 29, 32 and 39 of the CCT, the first reduction of duty, by one-eighth, was effected on 1 July 1980, and the second reduction will take effect six months after that date, ie, on 1 January 1981. The subsequent reductions will take effect in six annual stages.

2.1.6. The concession for kraft paper and board (ex 48.01 C II) will be implemented in four reductions, each of 0.5 points, on 1.1.1983, 1.1.1984, 1.1.1986, 1.1.1987.

2.1.7. Since it is necessary to introduce, as from 1.1.1981, reductions of duty relating to paper or paperboard falling within heading No 48.21, the layout of this heading has been changed. It should be noted that the first state of these reductions was not effected on 1 January 1980 as the amounts were considered to be minimal. The reductions applicable on 1 January 1981 combine the first and the second stages.

2.2. Amendments resulting from agricultural regulations

2.2.1. These amendments concern changes in the tariff resulting from regulations relating to common market organisations already in force or coming into force on 1 January 1981 at the latest.

2.2.2. These regulations concern the following chapters:
Chapter 4 - heading No 04.04 (Regulation (EEC) No 1361/80 of 5.6.1980)

..... (a)

2.3. Amendments resulting from regulations other than agricultural regulations

2.3.1. These amendments concern changes in the tariff resulting from regulations entering into force during the year 1980.

2.3.2. These regulations concern the following texts:
Section II of the Preliminary Provisions and
Chapters 60 and 61 (Additional notes relating to suits
and co-ordinate suits)

- Regulation No

OJ No L of

(a) Agricultural regulations in the course of adoption will be included in this paragraph.

Chapters 29, 32 and 39 (rates of conventional duty)

- Regulation No

OJ No L of

Chapter 73 (tariff quotas for ferro-alloys)

- Regulation No

OJ No L of

3. Conclusions

From the foregoing it will be seen that the draft Common Customs Tariff applicable with effect from 1.1.1981 includes an appreciable number of amendments, which follow mainly from the results of the multilateral negotiations in the framework of the GATT. The whole of these amendments has been the subject of a close examination by the Joint Panel of Government Experts on the Common Customs Tariff and has been approved by them. In order to make this instrument available to the national administrations and to the trade as soon as possible the Commission requests the Council to deal with this draft Regulation at one of its forthcoming meetings.

COUNCIL REGULATION (EEC)

amending Regulation (EEC) No 950/68
on the Common Customs Tariff

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community,
and in particular Articles 28 and 113 thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the Commission,

Whereas, under agreements signed with non-member countries, and in particular pursuant to the 1979 Geneva Protocol and the 1979 Additional Protocol to the Geneva Protocol annexed to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade and the Agreement on trade in civil aircraft signed at the end of the 1973-1979 Conference on Multilateral Trade Negotiations, the Community has undertaken to make reductions in customs duties, certain of which are to be implemented in whole or in part on 1 January 1981; whereas it is expedient, therefore, in order to ensure uniform application of the Common Customs Tariff, to specify in Council Regulation (EEC) No 950/68 of 28 June 1968 on the Common Customs Tariff (1), as last amended by Regulation (EEC) No (2), the conventional duties applicable from 1 January 1981;

Whereas certain Regulations on the common organisation of agricultural markets provide that the tariff nomenclature resulting from their application shall be included in the Common Customs Tariff and/or amend customs duties; whereas it is therefore appropriate to include in this Regulation all the amendments resulting from Regulations adopted under the Common Agricultural Policy;

(1) OJ No L 172, 22.7.1968, p.1

(2) OJ No L , , p.

.../...

Whereas it is appropriate, for the sake of clarity, to bring the whole of the Common Customs Tariff up to date; whereas, for this purpose, it is necessary to collect in a single text not only those parts which are amended with effect from 1 January 1981 but also those which have already been amended and those which remain unchanged;

Whereas, although temporary tariff amendments and the preferential systems resulting from the various acts adopted by the Community form an integral part of the Common Customs Tariff, it seems appropriate not to include them in this Regulation;

Whereas this Regulation does not apply to products covered by the Treaty establishing the European Coal and Steel Community, although the nomenclature and the conventional duties for these products are included, for information purposes, in the Schedule of Customs Duties in order to make the latter easier to understand,

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

Article 1

The Annex headed 'Common Customs Tariff' to Regulation (EEC) No 950/68 is hereby replaced by the Annex to this Regulation.

Article 2

This Regulation shall enter into force on 1 January 1981.

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

Done at Brussels,

For the Council

The President