

COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

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Draft

COUNCIL REGULATION (EEC)

opening, allocating and providing for the administration
of a Community tariff quota for certain eels falling
within subheading ex 03.01 A II of the Common Customs
Tariff (1 July 1983 to 30 June 1984)

(submitted to the Council by the Commission)



EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

1. In recent years, eel fishing has been prohibited or has become impossible in certain Community production centres owing to pollution of the waters. Efforts have been made to increase production in other centres in order to compensate at least for the losses of the quantities available. Despite these efforts, it has been observed that Community production has remained insufficient to supply the demands of the Member States' fish processing industries.

This situation prompted the Council -on a proposal from the Commission to open from 1971 a duty-free Community tariff quota for certain fresh eels (live or dead), chilled or frozen, falling within subheading ex 03.01 A II of the Common Customs Tariff.

The situation of the eel market was reexamined at a meeting of the Working Party on Economic Tariff Problems held on 18 January 1983.

At that meeting it emerged that, following an intervention by the Guidance Section of EAGGF Italian production ought to increase by some 3 000 tonnes, with this eventual prospect of an even greater increase, that efforts were being made in the United Kingdom to develop eel production on a relatively large scale ; but that in any case Community production remained inadequate and that consequently it still seemed advisable to envisage an extension of the tariff measures currently in force by opening an annual tariff quota for the period from 1 July 1983 to 30 Juni 1984 with a volume calculated so as not to prejudice the development of Community production. The volume of this tariff quota could be fixed at 5 000 tonnes, this corresponding broadly to the immediate requirements of the Member States for imports from third countries. Any subsequent requirements which might arise, notably if the development of production in the United Kingdom and Italy did not come up to expectations, could be covered by an increase in the quota volume following a reexamination of the situation.

As regards the subdivision of the above-mentioned volume of 5 000 tonnes, a first instalment of 4 500 tonnes is allocated among the Member States in proportion to requirements. The balance of 500 tonnes will constitute the Community reserve.

This is the objective of the attached draft.

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COUNCIL REGULATION (EEC)

opening, allocating and providing for the administration of a Community tariff
quota for certain eels falling within subheading ex 03.01 A II of the Common
Customs Tariff (1 July 1983 to 30 June 1984)

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN
COMMUNITIES,

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

Having regard to the draft Regulation submitted by
the Commission,

Whereas eel fishing has been prohibited or has
become impossible in certain Community production
centres ; whereas this has led to a drop in Community
production of eels in general and particularly of fresh
eels (live or dead), chilled or frozen, falling within
subheading ex 03.01 A II of the Common Customs
Tariff, intended for processing by curing or skinning
enterprises or for use in the industrial manufacture of
products falling within heading No 16.04 thereof ;
whereas this production is likely to be developed,
particularly in two Member States, without, however,
being able to satisfy all the requirements of the
Community ; whereas the processing industries in the
Community consequently depend to a large extent on
imports for their supplies of eels ; whereas, from 1 July
1983 to 30 June 1984, the application of the

Common Customs Tariff duty should there-
fore be suspended totally on imports of the relevant
products up to an appropriate quantitative limit ;
whereas the introduction of a Community measure of
this nature is unlikely to harm Community produc-
tion ;

Whereas current demand not met by Community
production which must therefore be met by imports
can be estimated at 5 000 tonnes for the period 1 July
1983 to 30 June 1984 ; whereas a tariff quota for the
relevant types of eel should therefore be opened for
this period on the conditions set out above ; whereas
the fixing of the quota volume at this level does not,
however, prevent its readjustment during the quota
period ;

Whereas it is in particular necessary to ensure to all
importers in the Member States equal and uninter-
rupted access to the abovementioned quota and unin-
terrupted 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, in the light of these principles, the Commu-
nity nature of the quota can be respected by allocating
the tariff quota among the Member States listed
below ; whereas statistics available for these products
do not give a clear picture of the market situation for
them ; whereas, therefore, it is not possible to allocate
the quota among the Member States on the basis of
import trends for the relevant products over the past
few years ; whereas, however, according to the esti-
mates put forward by the Member States, initial shares
may be fixed at the quantities set out in Article 2 ;

Whereas, in order to take into account import trends
for the products concerned, the quota amount should
be divided into two instalments, the first instalment
being allocated, and the second forming a reserve
intended subsequently to cover the requirements of
the Member States which have used up their initial
shares ; whereas, in order to ensure a certain degree of
security for importers, the first instalment of the
Community tariff quota should be fixed at a level
which, under present circumstances, may be 90 % of
the quota amount ;

Whereas the initial shares may be used up at different
rates ; whereas, in order to take this fact into account
and to avoid any break in continuity, any Member
State which has almost used up its total initial 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 enti-
rely used up, and repeated as many times as the
reserve allows ; whereas the initial 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, which must be able to keep account of
the extent to which the quota amount has been used
up and to inform the Member States accordingly ;

Whereas if, at a given date in the quota period, a
considerable balance remains in one or other Member
State it is essential, to prevent a part of the Commu-
nity tariff quota from remaining unused in one
Member State while it could be used in others, that
that Member State should return a significant propor-
tion thereof to the reserve ;

Whereas, since the Kingdom of Belgium, the Kingdom of the Netherlands and the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg are united within and jointly represented by the Benelux Economic Union, any measure concerning the administration of the shares allocated to that economic union may be carried out by any one of its members,

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION :

Article 1

1. During the period 1 July 1983 to 30 June 1984 a Community tariff quota of 5 000 tonnes shall be opened for fresh eels (live or dead), chilled or frozen, falling within subheading ex 03.01 A II of the Common Customs Tariff, intended for processing by curing or skinning enterprises or for use in the industrial manufacture of products falling within heading No 16.04 of the Common Customs Tariff.

Control of the use for this special purpose shall be carried out pursuant to the relevant Community provisions.

2. Within the limits of this tariff quota, the Common Customs Tariff duty shall be totally suspended.

Within these limits, Greece shall apply customs duties calculated in accordance with the provisions laid down in the 1979 Act of Accession.

Article 2

1. A first instalment of 4 500 tonnes of this Community tariff quota shall be allocated among the Member States. Member States' shares, which, subject to Article 5, shall be valid from 1 July 1983 to 30 June 1984, shall consist of the following amounts :

	(tonnes)
Benelux	2 076
Denmark	675
Germany	1 545
Greece	2
France	44
Ireland	2
Italy	3
United Kingdom	153

2. The second instalment of 500 tonnes shall constitute the reserve.

Article 3

1. If 90 % or more of a Member State's initial share as fixed in Article 2(1), or of that share minus any portion returned to the reserve where Article 5 has been applied, has been used up, that Member State shall forthwith, by notifying the Commission, draw a second share, to the extent that the reserve so permits, equal to 10 % of its initial share, rounded up as necessary to the next whole number.

2. If, after its initial share has been exhausted, 90 % or more of the second share drawn by a Member State has been used up, that Member State shall forthwith, by notifying the Commission, draw a third share equal to 5 % of its initial share, rounded up as necessary to the next whole number, to the extent that the reserve so permits.

3. If, after its second share has been exhausted, 90 % or more of the third share drawn by a Member State has been used up, that Member State shall, in the manner provided in paragraph 2, draw a fourth share equal to the third.

This procedure shall apply until the reserve is used up.

4. By way of derogation from paragraphs 1, 2 and 3, Member States may draw lesser shares than those specified therein if there are grounds for believing that those specified may not be used in full. They shall inform the Commission of their reasons for applying this paragraph.

Article 4

Additional shares drawn pursuant to Article 3 shall be valid until 30 June 1984.

Article 5

Member States shall return to the reserve, not later than 1 May 1984, the unused portions of their initial shares which, on 15 April 1984, are in excess of 20 % of the initial amounts. They may return a greater portion if there are grounds for believing that such portion may not be used in full.

Member States shall notify the Commission, not later than 1 May 1984, of the total quantities of the products in question imported, up to and including 15 April 1984, and charged against the Community quota and of any portion of their 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 has been notified, shall inform each State of the extent to which the reserve has been used up.

It shall inform the Member States, not later than 5 May 1984 of the amount still in reserve after amounts have been returned thereto pursuant to Article 5.

It shall ensure that the drawing which exhausts the 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. Member States shall take all appropriate measures 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 aggregate shares of the Community quota.

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

3. Member States shall charge imports of the products in question against their shares as and when the products are entered with the customs authorities for free circulation.

4. The extent to which a Member State has used up its share shall be determined on this basis of the imports charged against that share in accordance with paragraph 3.

Article 8

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

Article 9

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 July 1983.

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

Done at .

*For the Council
The President*