

COMMISSION

COMMISSION DECISION

of 11 June 1974

on the application by Ireland to take protective measures in respect of sisal baler twine (CCT heading No 59.04) under Article 135 of the Act concerning the conditions of accession and the adjustments to the Treaties

(Only the English text is authentic)

(74/357/EEC)

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community;

Having regard to the Act concerning the conditions of accession and the adjustments to the Treaties, and in particular Article 135;

Having regard to the application of 28 May 1974 by Ireland;

Whereas sisal baler twine is indispensable in Ireland for the harvesting of hay and straw;

Whereas the manufacture of sisal baler twine in Ireland is concentrated in one factory; whereas the production of this factory is traditionally sufficient to meet home market requirements only;

Whereas it has been established that for some months, there have been massive exports of sisal twine from Ireland, and that if this situation is not changed, Irish production will not be sufficient to cover domestic demand, independently from price-level;

Whereas for reasons of time and by virtue of the world supply situation in this sector, it would be extremely difficult and costly to meet this demand by means of imports, from whatever origin, given that there is no traditional import trade in sisal twine in Ireland;

Whereas in Ireland, and particularly in the southern and western parts, farming is still in the process of modernization; whereas, as a result, the great majority of baling machines used by the farmers of these regions are unable to utilize synthetic twine, particularly in polypropylene; whereas moreover

polypropylene twine which binds fodder together can present a serious danger to the health of livestock;

Whereas if suitable measures are not taken to check large-scale deliveries of sisal baler twine outside Ireland, more than a quarter of the hay-harvest will be severely damaged; whereas this would bring about serious difficulties which would be liable to persist in that sector of Irish agriculture dependant upon the hay harvest; whereas this harvest has already begun; whereas in the longer term these difficulties would have repercussions in the area of animal fodder; whereas there would result from this a serious and substantial increase in production costs which could not be borne by Irish farmers;

Whereas furthermore those regions where this type of agricultural activity is carried on are those in the south and west of Ireland, where small farms worked as family concerns predominate; whereas, in the absence of substantial alternative sources of income, the abovementioned difficulties could bring about serious deterioration of the economic situation of these regions;

Whereas such a situation would result in a slowing down in the execution of the Irish policy of industrialization and economic development, whose objectives have been recognized in Protocol No 30 annexed to the Act of Accession;

Whereas to diminish the consequences of this situation it is necessary to authorize Ireland to take protective measures;

Whereas to meet this situation the measure causing the least disturbance to the functioning of the common market and contributing to a re-equilibrium of the situation is the control of exports and deliveries of sisal baler twine referred to above

to third countries and Member States by the introduction of a licence system; whereas the regime to be applied to other Member States may in no circumstances be more restrictive than that relating to third countries;

Whereas the duration of applicability of the measure provided for by this Decision must be limited to the period strictly necessary to achieve the objectives set out in Article 135 of the Act of Accession,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

Ireland is authorized to establish in respect of sisal baler twine (CCT heading No 59.04) a licence system in order to:

- limit exports of this product to third countries;
- control and, in so far as is necessary, limit deliveries of this product to other Member States, such regime however may in no circumstances be more restrictive than that applied to exports to third countries.

Article 2

1. Ireland shall notify the Commission immediately of those measures taken in application of Article 1 and shall inform the Commission regularly concerning the application of such measures.

2. Ireland shall inform the Commission of the development of the situation in the sector concerned with specific reference to the state of supplies of the product referred to in Article 1.

Article 3

1. The Commission shall ensure that the provisions of this Decision are applied, in particular with regard to the drawing-up and use of the licences.
2. The Commission shall, if appropriate, adopt the provisions necessary for the application of this Decision.

Article 4

The Commission may alter or revoke this Decision if it determines that the conditions which led to its enactment have changed or that its effects prove to be more restrictive than its purpose requires, or involve particularly serious consequences for all or part of the Community.

Article 5

Without prejudice to the application of Article 4, this Decision shall be applicable until 31 August 1974.

Article 6

This Decision is addressed to Ireland.

Done at Brussels, 11 June 1974.

For the Commission
The President

François-Xavier ORTOLI