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COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

COM(83) 646 final

Brussels, 3 November 1983

Direction
Général

100/83

Proposal for a
COUNCIL REGULATION (EEC)
opening, allocating and providing for the administration of a
Community tariff quota for newsprint falling within subheading
48.01 A of the Common Customs Tariff (1984) and extending this quota
to include certain other types of paper

(submitted to the Council by the Commission)

COM(83) 646 final

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

1. At the last multilateral GATT negotiations, the Community undertook to open annually a nil-duty Community tariff quota for 1 500 000 tonnes of newsprint falling within subheading 48.01 A of the Common Customs Tariff.

However, as from 1 January 1984 newsprint originating in the EFTA-countries can be imported duty free as a result of agreements concluded with these countries. The aforesaid quota must therefore be reduced to a level which needs to be determined.

Moreover, Protocol No 13 annexed to the Act of Accession also provides for the opening of an autonomous Community tariff quota for this product when it has been established that all possibilities of supply on the internal market of the Community have been exhausted during the period for which the quota is opened.

2. Pending evaluation of the volume of requirements to be covered by the tariff quota in question on the basis of trade flows or negotiations, this volume should be fixed at a provisional level, made up of a contractual part and an autonomous part, which might be as much as 500 000 tonnes in view of past imports. This amount, calculated from cautions estimates, can be reviewed as required during the quota period.

This caution is justified all the more in the present case because account should be taken of the uncertainties regarding the levels of consumption, production and imports from EFTA and third countries, as well as of the need to ensure parallel development of the flow in Community production and of supplies for the consumer industries on satisfactory terms.

3. The tariff quota is allocated in accordance with the method which has normally been applied : allocation is based on past import figures and on estimates for the quota year in question.

.../...

Furthermore, in view of the size of the quota proposed from the start, the Commission considers that it would be contrary to the Community nature of this quota to divide it up into shares allocated definitively to all the Member States. It therefore proposes a system of administration based on the establishment of a Community reserve limited to 10 %.

4. Pending a definitive decision on the problem of watermark criteria, contained in the Additional Note to Chapter 48, it is proposed to renew for 1984 the possibility for the Member States to charge against the quota concerned other types of paper which, leaving aside the criteria of watermarks, correspond to the definition of newsprint to be found in the abovementioned Additional Note.

Proposal for a
COUNCIL REGULATION (EEC)

opening, allocating and providing for the administration of a Community tariff quota for newsprint falling within subheading 48.01 A of the Common Customs Tariff (1984) and extending this quota to include certain other types of paper

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 the Community has undertaken to open an annual duty-free Community tariff quota of 1 500 000 tonnes of newsprint falling within subheading 48.01 A of the Common Customs Tariff ;
whereas this volume must however be reduced to allow for imports from the countries of the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) since these imports can be effected duty free as from 1 January 1984 by virtue of the agreements concluded with these countries ; whereas in accordance with Protocole 13 annexed to the 1972 Act of Accession (1), each year an autonomous Community tariff quota is to be opened at zero duty when it has been established that all possibilities of supply on the internal market of the Community have been exhausted during the period for which the quota is opened ; whereas pending evaluation of volume of requirements to be covered by the quota in question on the basis of trade flows, this volume should be fixed at a provisional level made up of a contractual part and an autonomous part, which might be as much as 500 000 tonnes in view of past imports ; whereas the fixing of the quota volume at this level does not rule out a readjustment during the quota period ; whereas a duty free Community tariff quota of 500 000 tonnes should therefore be opened for 1984 ;

.../...

Whereas provision should be made for extending the tariff quota in question to include certain types of paper fulfilling all the conditions set out in the Additional Note to Chapter 48 except those relating to water marks;

Whereas equal and continuous access to the quota should be ensured for all Community importers and the rate of duty for the tariff quota should be applied

without interruption to all imports of the product in question until the quota is exhausted; whereas in the light of these principles, arrangements for the utilization of the Community tariff quota based on an allocation among Member States would seem to be consistent with the Community nature of the quota; whereas, in order that it may correspond as closely as possible to the actual trend of the market in the product in question, allocation of the quota should be in proportion to the requirements of the Member States as calculated by reference to statistics on imports from third countries which do not benefit from a similar preference, during a representative reference period and to the economic outlook for the year covered by the quota in question;

Whereas, for the past three years for which complete statistics are available, the imports of each of the Member States sharing in the above allocation amounted to the following percentages of total imports of the products in question :

	1980	1981	1982
Benelux	9,12	8,43	8,08
Denmark	0	0	0,03
Germany	15,96	13,25	15,02
Greece	0,36	0,81	0,05
France	3,14	1,22	1,00
Ireland	1,65	0,85	1,34
Italy	0,04	0,19	0,52
United Kingdom	69,73	75,25	73,96

.../...

Whereas, in view of the above and of the foreseeable trend on the market in newsprint, in general, and of Community production in particular during 1984, the initial quota may be allocated approximately in the following percentages :

Benelux	11,32
Denmark	0,14
Germany	12,74
Greece	0,03
France	0,57
Ireland	1,42
Italy	0,14
United Kingdom	73,64 ;

Whereas to take account of import trends for the product concerned, the quota should be divided into two tranches, the first being allocated among the Member States and the second held as a reserve to cover subsequently the requirements of Member States which have exhausted their initial shares ; whereas, to give importers some degree of certainty and yet enable Community production to be disposed of on satisfactory terms, the first tranche of the quota should be fixed at 90 % of the full amount ;

Whereas Member States may exhaust their initial shares at different rates ; whereas, to provide for this eventuality and avoid disruption of supplies, any Member State which has almost used up its initial share should draw an additional share from the reserve ; whereas each time its additional share is almost exhausted a Member State should draw a further share, and so on as many times as the reserve allows ; whereas the initial and additional shares should be valid until the end of the quota period ; whereas this form of administration requires close collaboration between the Member States and the Commission, and the latter must be in a position to keep account of the extent to which the quota has been used up and to inform the Member States accordingly ;

Whereas if at a given date in the quota period a considerable quantity of a Member State's initial share remains unused it is essential, to prevent a part of the Community tariff quota from remaining unused in one Member State while it could be used in others, that such State should return a significant proportion 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 transaction in respect of 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 January to 31 December 1984, a Community tariff quota of 500 000 tonnes shall be opened in respect of newsprint falling within subheading 48.01 A of the Common Customs Tariff (1).

2. Member States may charge against this tariff quota the other types of paper complying with the definition of newsprint contained in the Additional Note to Chapter 48, except as regards the criteria governing watermarks.

3. Imports of newsprint shall not be charged against this tariff quota if they are already free of customs duties under other preferential tariff treatment.

4. The Common Customs Tariff duty shall be totally suspended within the limit of the above quota.

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

Article 2

1. The Community tariff quota referred to in Article 1 shall be divided into two tranches.

2. A first tranche of 450 000 tonnes shall be allocated among the Member States. Member States' shares, which subject to Article 5 shall be valid from 1 January until 31 December 1984 shall be as follows :

(1) Entry under this subheading is subject to conditions to be determined by the competent authorities.

	(tonnes)
Benelux	50.960
Denmark	620
Germany	57.350
Greece	120
France	2.550
Ireland	6.380
Italy	620
United Kingdom	331.400

3. The second tranche, of 50 000 tonnes, shall constitute the reserve.

Article 3

1. If 90 % or more of a Member State's initial share as fixed in Article 2 (2), or of that share minus the portion returned to the reserve where Article 5 has been applied, has been used up, it 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, in the manner and to the extent provided in paragraph 1, draw a third share equal to 5 % of its initial share.

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 and to the extent provided in paragraph 1, draw a fourth share equal to the third.

This procedure shall apply until the reserve is exhausted.

4. Notwithstanding paragraphs 1, 2 and 3, Member States may draw lesser shares than those specified in those paragraphs 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 provision.

Article 4

Additional shares drawn pursuant to Article 3 shall be valid until 31 December 1984.

Article 5

The Member States shall return to the reserve, not later than 1 October 1984, the unused portion of their initial share which, on 15 September 1984, is in excess of 20 % of the initial amount. They may return a greater portion if there are grounds for believing that such portion may not be used in full.

Member States shall, not later than 1 October 1984, notify the Commission of the total quantities of the products in question imported up to and including 15 September 1984 and charged against the Community tariff 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 shall, as soon as it has been notified, 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 1984 of the amount still in reserve after amounts have been returned thereto pursuant to Article 5.

It shall ensure that when a quantity exhausting the reserve is drawn, the amount so drawn 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 accumulated share of the quota.

2. Member States shall take all measures necessary to ensure that the types of paper referred to in Article 1 included in this tariff quota are in fact intended for the printing of newspapers, weekly papers or other periodicals of heading No 49.02, published at least 10 times per year.

In such a case, the control of the use of the goods for the prescribed end-use shall be carried out by applying the relevant Community provisions.

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

4. The extent to which a Member State has used up its shares shall be determined on the basis of imports of the products in question entered with the customs authorities for free circulation.

Article 8

At the Commission's request, the Member States shall inform it of 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 January 1984.

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

Done at Brussels,

For the Council

The President