COMMISSION DECISION

of 20 January 1976

authorizing the Kingdom of Belgium, the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg and the Kingdom of the Netherlands not to apply Community treatment to certain men's and boys' under garments other than shirts falling within heading No ex 61.03 of the Common Customs Tariff, originating in Taiwan and in free circulation in the Federal Republic of Germany

(Only the French and Dutch texts are authentic)

(76/232/EEC)

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community, and in particular the first paragraph of Article 115 thereof,

Having regard to the application under the first paragraph of Article 115 of the Treaty, made on 14 January 1976 by the Governments of the Benelux countries to the Commission by telex from the Office of the Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the European Communities, for authorization not to apply Community treatment to certain men's and boys' under garments other than shirts falling within heading No ex 61.03 of the Common Customs Tariff, originating in Taiwan and in free circulation in the Federal Republic of Germany,

Whereas imports into the Community of the products in question originating in Taiwan are subject to a Community quantitative quota established by Council Regulation (EEC) No 1783/75 of 10 July 1975 on rules for imports of certain textile products originating in Taiwan [1];

Whereas this quota is administered by allocation among the Member States, as determined by Commission Regulation (EEC) No 1849/75 of 18 July 1975 allocating quantitative quotas in respect of imports into the Community of certain textile products originating in Taiwan [2], and whereas the quota shares allocated for 1976 to the Benelux countries and the Federal Republic of Germany are 196 metric tons and 339 metric tons respectively;

Whereas, since it was not possible when the Community quota was opened to achieve full alignment of the import arrangements previously applied in the Member States, the above Regulation (EEC) No 1783/75 provides, as a temporary measure, for a derogation from the principle of equal and continuous access for all importers to Community quotas by stipulating that the quota in question be allocated initially on the basis of the volumes of imports previously admitted into the various Member States and need be adjusted only progressively to the supply requirements of the markets;

Whereas for this reason the allocation of the quota in question still involves certain disparities in the quota shares fixed for the various Member States in relation to the supply requirements of the markets concerned;

Whereas these disparities have caused in the Benelux countries a flow of imports of the products in question, originating in Taiwan and in free circulation in the Federal Republic of Germany, which threatens to continue and to grow;

Whereas according to information supplied by the Governments of the Benelux countries there are serious economic difficulties in the branch of the textile industry concerned resulting in a progressive decline of production and a constant reduction of the number of workers employed in that sector;

Whereas these economic difficulties are caused largely by unequal conditions of competition with certain countries (including Taiwan), whereby such countries are enabled to export at prices lower than those of producers in the Benelux countries;

Whereas the indirect imports in question, which would be in addition to those already effected, would be likely to aggravate these economic difficulties;

Whereas it is not possible at the present time to set in motion the machinery for bringing about the necessary cooperation from the Federal Republic of Germany;

Whereas authorization should be given, for a limited period, for the application of protective measures, under the first paragraph of Article 115, subject to the conditions laid down by the Commission Decision of 12 May 1971 [3], and in particular Article 1 thereof,

[1] OJ No L 182, 12. 7. 1975, p. 2.
[2] OJ No L 189, 21. 7. 1975, p. 24.
[3] OJ No L 121, 3. 6. 1971, p. 26.

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION :

Article 1

The Kingdom of Belgium, the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg and the Kingdom of the Netherlands are authorized not to apply Community treatment to imports of the following products :

CCT heading No	Description of goods
ex 61.03	Men's and boys' under garments other than shirts

where they originate in Taiwan and are in free circulation in the Federal Republic of Germany, and in respect of which applications for import licences were lodged after 1 January 1976.

Article 2

This Decision shall apply until new opportunities arise in the Benelux countries for the importation of the products in question from Taiwan and in any case not later than 31 December 1976.

Article 3

This Decision is addressed to the Kingdom of Belgium, the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg and the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

Done at Brussels, 20 January 1976.

For the Commission

Christopher SOAMES

Vice-President