II

(Acts whose publication is not obligatory)

COUNCIL

COUNCIL DECISION

of 24 February 1976

authorizing Ireland to take protective measures in respect of footwear with uppers of leather originating in Finland

(76/272/EEC)

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EEC) No 3288/73 of 3 December 1973 concerning safeguard measures provided for in the Agreement between the European Economic Community and the Republic of Finland (1), and in particular Article 4 thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the Commission,

Whereas the Irish footwear industry is currently encountering serious disturbances, involving notably a reduction in employment from 5 000 persons in 1973 to approximately 3 500 in October 1975, with a further loss of 310 jobs forecast as imminent; whereas the Irish footwear sector is mainly situated in the regions where it often represents the main if not the only local source of employment;

Whereas production declined by 30% in the first half of 1975 compared with the same period of 1974 and declined even further in the third quarter of 1975; whereas exports for the first three-quarters of 1975 dropped by 20% compared with 1974; whereas import penetration has risen from 34·1% in 1973 to 41·8% in 1974, to 45·4% in January to March 1975, 52·1% in April to June 1975 and 51·4% in July to September 1975;

Whereas these developments are liable to bring about a serious deterioration of the economic situation of this region of the Community;

Whereas it is therefore necessary to maintain temporarily an adequate level of tariff protection in Ireland for this industry;

Whereas Ireland is applying the following rates of duty to footwear with uppers of leather as from 1 January until 30 June 1976, following authorization by the Commission in its Decision of 22 December 1975:

United Kingdom	9·0%
Other Member States	18·5%
Full rate	23·5%

Whereas it is therefore appropriate to take similar measures as regards imports of this product originating in Finland in accordance with Article 26 of the Agreement between the European Economic Community and Finland of 5 October 1973 (2) which would result in a tariff reduction lower than that foreseen by Article 3 (2) of that Agreement, according to which the duty applied by Ireland to imports of

(1) OJ No L 338, 7. 12. 1973, p. 2.

(2) OJ No L 328, 28. 11. 1973, p. 2.

this product originating in Finland should otherwise be reduced to 10·8% or £0·09 per pair whichever is the greater;

Whereas consultations have been held with Finland in accordance with Article 27 of the EEC-Finland Agreement,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

Ireland is hereby authorized to apply, until 30 June 1976, a rate of duty of 18·5% to footwear with uppers of leather falling within subheading 64.02 A of the Common Customs Tariff originating in Finland.

Article 2

This Decision is addressed to Ireland.

Done at Brussels, 24 February 1976.

For the Council

The President

M. MART