COMMISSION DECISION

of 13 February 1976

extending for six months Decision 71/314/ECSC of 27 July 1971 authorizing specialization agreements covering the manufacture of rolled steel products and agreements for the setting up of an agency to allocate orders for merchant steel bars and wire rod between Eisenwerk-Gesellschaft Maximilianshütte mbH, Klöckner-Werke AG and Stahlwerke Peine-Salzgitter AG

(Only the German text is authentic)

(76/354/ECSC)

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Coal and Steel Community, and in particular Article 65 thereof,

Having regard to Decision 71/314/ECSC of 27 July 1971 authorizing specialization agreements covering the manufacture of rolled steel products and agreements for the setting up of an agency to allocate orders for merchant steel bars and wire rod between Eisenwerk-Gesellschaft Maximilianshütte mbH, Klöckner-Werke AG and Stahlwerke Peine-Salzgitter AG [1],

Having regard to the application dated 18 November 1975 from the undertakings concerned,

Whereas:

1. By Decision 71/314/ECSC of 27 July 1971, the Commission gave an authorization under Article 65 of the Treaty to the following steel undertakings:

— Eisenwerk-Gesellschaft Maximilianshütte mbH, Sulzbach-Rosenberg;

— Klöckner-Werke AG, Duisburg;

— Stahlwerke Peine-Salzgitter AG, Peine;

for specialization agreements covering the manufacture of rolled steel products and agreements for the setting up of an agency to allocate orders for merchant steel bars and wire rod.

2. This Decision expired on 31 December 1975.

3. The undertakings concerned have begun negotiations to consolidate what they have achieved under the authorized specialization agreements and to adjust the agreements to changed circumstances. It is their intention to submit to the Commission as soon as possible the results of their negotiations, assuming that these end in new agreements. Since the negotiations cannot be completed before the end of 1975, the undertakings concerned have therefore requested that the Decision of 27 July 1971 be extended for six months.

4. The information supplied to the Commission pursuant to Article 3 of Decision 71/314/ECSC shows that the specialization agreements covering the manufacture of rolled steel products have enabled production thereof to be rationalized to some extent. The agreements for the setting up of an agency to allocate orders for merchant steel bars and wire rod have not been applied in practice since common market prices for these products have been greatly at variance. Financial compensation was paid to only one of the firms involved and then only in 1972.

5. The undertakings concerned have made no changes or additions to the agreements as authorized. Apart from the agreements for the setting up of an agency to allocate orders for merchant steel bars and wire rod, the agreements are still operating in the form in which they were considered for authorization in the light of conditions of competition.

6. Decision 71/314/ECSC may therefore be extended for a period of six months,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

Decision 71/314/ECSC of 27 July 1971 authorizing specialization agreements covering the manufacture of rolled steel products and agreements for the

[1] OJ No L 201, 5. 9. 1971, p. 19.

setting up of an agency to allocate orders for merchant steel bars and wire rod between Eisenwerk-Gesellschaft Maximilianshütte mbH, Klöckner-Werke AG and Stahlwerke Peine-Salzgitter AG is extended until 30 June 1976.

Article 2

This Decision is addressed to:

— Eisenwerk-Gesellschaft Maximilianshütte mbH, Sulzbach-Rosenberg;

— Klöckner-Werke AG, Duisburg;

— Stahlwerke Peine-Salzgitter AG, Peine.

Done at Brussels, 13 February 1976.

For the Commission

A. BORSCHETTE

Member of the Commission