COMMISSION DECISION

of 13 February 1976

extending for six months Decision 71/315/ECSC of 27 July 1971 authorizing specialization agreements covering the manufacture of rolled steel products and the joint buying of iron ore between steel undertakings in south-western Germany

(Only the German text is authentic)

(76/355/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 71/315/ECSC of 27 July 1971 authorizing specialization agreements covering the manufacture of rolled steel products and the joint buying of iron ore between steel undertakings in south-western Germany (1),

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

Whereas:

1. Commission Decision 71/315/ECSC of 27 July 1971 gave an authorization under Article 65 to the following steel undertakings:

— Aktiengesellschaft der Dillinger Hüttenwerke, Dillingen;

— ARBED — Aciéries réunies de Burbach-Eich-Dudelange, société anonyme — Vereinigte Hüttenwerke Burbach-Eich-Düdelingen AG, St. Ingbert Department;

— ARBED SA — ARBED Felten & Guilleaume Vereinigte Drahtwerke, Köln-Mülheim, and its departments:

  — Walzwerke GmbH vormals E. Böcking & Co., Köln-Mülheim, and

  — Felten & Guilleaume Carlswerk Eisen und Stahl GmbH, Köln-Mülheim (including wire-drawing plants at Cologne and Berlin);

— Eschweiler Bergwerks-Verein, Kohlscheid;

— Neunkircher Eisenwerk AG vormals Gebrüder Stumm, Neunkirchen;

— Schwäbische Hüttenwerke GmbH, Wasseralfingen;

— Stahlwerke Röchling-Burbach GmbH, Völklingen;

— Otto Wolff AG, Köln, acting on behalf of:

  — Rasselstein AG, Neuwied, and

  — Stahlwerke Bochum AG, Bochum;

for specialization agreements covering the manufacture of rolled steel products and the joint buying of iron ore.

2. This Decision expired on 31 December 1975.

3. The undertakings concerned have begun negotiations to consolidate of 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 provided to the Commission pursuant to Article 3 of Decision 71/315/ECSC shows that the specialization agreements as authorized have enabled the production of the relevant products to be rationalized to some extent. The joint buying agreements for iron ore have enabled the anticipated savings to be made and no quantitative or financial compensation has been given.

5. The undertakings concerned have made no changes or additions to the agreements as authorized. The agreements are still operating fully in the form in which they were considered for authorization in the light of conditions of competition.

6. Decision 71/315/ECSC may therefore be extended for a period of six months,

(1) OJ No L 201, 5. 9. 1971, p. 27.

HAS ADOPTED DECISION:

Article 1

Decision 71/315/ECSC of 27 July 1971 authorizing specialization agreements covering the manufacture of rolled steel products and the joint buying of iron ore between steel undertakings in south-western Germany is extended until 30 June 1976.

Article 2

This Decision is addressed to the following undertakings:

— Aktiengesellschaft der Dillinger Hüttenwerke, Dillingen;

— ARBED — Aciéries réunies de Burbach-Eich-Dudelange, société anonyme — Vereinigte Hüttenwerke Burbach-Eich-Düdelingen AG, St. Ingbert Department;

— ARBED SA — ARBED Felten & Guilleaume Vereinigte Drahtwerke, Köln-Mülheim, and its departments:

  — Walzwerke GmbH vormals E. Böcking & Co., Köln-Mülheim, and

  — Felten & Guilleaume Carlswerk Eisen und Stahl GmbH, Köln-Mülheim (including wire-drawing plants at Cologne and Berlin);

— Eschweiler Bergwerks-Verein, Kohlscheid;

— Neunkircher Eisenwerk AG vormals Gebrüder Stumm, Neunkirchen;

— Schwäbische Hüttenwerke GmbH, Wasseralfingen;

— Stahlwerke Röchling-Burbach GmbH, Völklingen;

— Otto Wolff AG, Köln, acting on behalf of:

  — Rasselstein AG, Neuwied, and

  — Stahlwerke Bochum AG, Bochum.

Done at Brussels, 13 February 1976.

For the Commission

A. BORSCHETTE

Member of the Commission