COMMISSION DECISION

of 17 November 1975

authorizing the Kingdom of Belgium, the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg and the Kingdom of the Netherlands not to apply Community treatment to men's socks falling within heading No ex 60.03 of the Common Customs Tariff, originating in Hungary and in free circulation in the other Member States

(Only the French and Dutch texts are authentic)

(76/48/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 11 November 1975 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 men's socks falling within heading No ex 60.03 of the Common Customs Tariff, originating in Hungary and in free circulation in the Federal Republic of Germany,

Whereas for the products in question, the Benelux countries, in accordance with the Council Decision of 2 December 1974 (1), as amended by the Decision of 27 March 1975 (2), have opened in respect of Hungary an annual quota of 19 000 dozen pairs, which has already been fully allocated;

Whereas the prices of the imports in question are approximately 40 % below those which producers in the Benelux countries are obliged to charge on the basis of their production costs;

Whereas according to information supplied by the Governments of the Benelux countries there are serious economic difficulties in the sector concerned, resulting in a progressive decline of production and employment;

Whereas at the present time low-priced imports of the product in question, which would be in addition to imports already effected, would be likely to aggravate these economic difficulties;

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

Whereas authorization should accordingly be given 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,

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 men's socks falling within heading No ex 60.03 of the Common Customs Tariff, where they originate in Hungary and are in free circulation in the Federal Republic of Germany, and in respect of which applications for import licences were lodged after 29 October 1975.

Article 2

This Decision shall apply until new opportunities arise in the Benelux countries for the importation of the products in question from Hungary and in any case not later than 31 December 1975.

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, 17 November 1975.

For the Commission

Finn GUNDELACH

Member of the Commission

(1) OJ No L 358, 31. 12. 1974, p. 1.
(2) OJ No L 99, 21. 4. 1975, p. 1.
(3) OJ No L 121, 3. 6. 1971, p. 26.