COMMISSION DECISION

of 20 November 1975

authorizing the United Kingdom not to apply Community treatment to jackets, suits, jeans, shorts and similar articles, falling within heading No ex 61.01 of the Common Customs Tariff, originating in Hong Kong and in free circulation in the other Member States

(Only the English text is authentic)

(76/53/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 November 1975 by the United Kingdom Government to the Commission by telex from the office of its Permanent Representative to the European Communities, for authorization to apply protective measures in respect of the importation of certain men's and boys' cotton outer garments (jackets, suits, trousers, jeans, shorts and similar articles), falling within heading No ex 61.01 of the Common Customs Tariff, originating in Hong Kong and in free circulation in the other Member States,

Whereas the importation into the Community of the products in question originating in Hong Kong is the subject of an Agreement negotiated between the Community and Hong Kong signed on 13 August 1975;

Whereas, pending the completion of the procedures necessary for the conclusion and entry into force of that Agreement, the Community and Hong Kong have agreed to recognize the *de facto* application of its provisions with effect from 18 July 1975;

Whereas, under the Agreement, Hong Kong has undertaken to take all necessary steps to limit its exports of certain textile products to the Community to certain ceilings allocated among the Member States;

Whereas, as a result of the temporary exceptional situation resulting from the application at a late stage in the year of the provisions of the export restraint agreement, there is a danger that actual imports in 1975 will be greater than the annual quantities provided for in the Agreement concluded with Hong Kong;

Whereas, in these circumstances, it is to be feared that an indirect trade flow may arise for the products in question, originating in Hong Kong and put into free circulation in the other Member States, and that this indirect trade flow may increase;

Whereas, according to the information given in the application, it appears that serious economic difficulties exist in the sector of the textile industry in question, which manifest themselves particularly in a high rate of unemployment;

Whereas, in these conditions, these economic difficulties may be aggravated by indirect imports being added without limit to those already effected;

Whereas it is not possible at the moment to bring into effect methods by which the other Member States could provide the necessary cooperation;

Whereas it is appropriate to authorize, for a limited time, the application of protective measures under the first paragraph of Article 115, under the conditions specified in the Commission Decision of 12 May 1971 [1], and in particular Article 1 thereof;

Whereas it is inappropriate to cover, by this Decision, the request for a licence with which the application in question originated, because of its especially low amount,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

The United Kingdom is authorized to exclude from Community treatment, imports of the following products:

CCT heading No	Description of goods
ex 61.01	Men's and boys' outer garments (jackets, suits, trousers, jeans, shorts and similar articles)

originating in Hong Kong and in free circulation in the other Member States, and in respect of which

[1] OJ No L 121, 3. 6. 1971, p. 26.

applications for import licences were lodged after 13 November 1975.

Article 2

This Decision is applicable until new import possibilities are opened in the United Kingdom in respect of Hong Kong for the products in question, and at the latest until 31 December 1975.

Article 3

This Decision is addressed to the United Kingdom.

Done at Brussels, 20 November 1975.

For the Commission

Finn GUNDELACH

Member of the Commission