COMMISSION DECISION

of 16 July 1976

authorizing the French Republic not to apply Community treatment to shirts, T-shirts, under vests and the like, falling within heading No ex 60.04 of the Common Customs Tariff, originating in Hong Kong and in free circulation in the other Member States

(Only the French text is authentic)

(76/692/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 12 July 1976 by the French Government to the Commission by telex from the office of its Permanent Representative to the European Communities, for authorization not to apply Community treatment to shirts, T-shirts, under vests and the like, falling within heading No ex 60.04 of the Common Customs Tariff, originating in Hong Kong and in free circulation in the United Kingdom,

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;

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 for shirts, T-shirts, under vests and the like the quota share laid down for the French Republic is 221 000 items (annual quota 1976);

Whereas, according to information supplied by the French Government, there are serious economic difficulties in the textile and clothing sector leading to large-scale unemployment;

Whereas the indirect imports of the products in question, taking into account those already effected in 1976, are likely to aggravate these economic difficulties;

Whereas authorization should accordingly be given for the application of protective measures under the first paragraph of Article 115, subject to the conditions specified in the Commission Decision of 12 May 1971 [1], and in particular Article 1 thereof,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

The French Republic is authorized not to apply Community treatment to imports of shirts, T-shirts, under vests and the like, falling within heading No ex 60.04 of the Common Customs Tariff, where they originate in Hong Kong and are in free circulation in the other Member States, and in respect of which applications for import licences were lodged after 20 May 1976.

Article 2

This Decision shall apply until 31 December 1976.

Article 3

This Decision is addressed to the French Republic.

Done at Brussels, 16 July 1976.

For the Commission

Christopher SOAMES

Vice-President

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