II

(Acts whose publication is not obligatory)

COMMISSION

COMMISSION DECISION

of 16 November 1976

authorizing the French Republic not to apply Community treatment to natural honey falling within heading No 04.06 of the Common Customs Tariff, originating in the People's Republic of China and in free circulation in the other Member States

(Only the French text is authentic)

(77/132/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 9 November 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 natural honey falling within heading No 04.06 of the Common Customs Tariff, originating in the People's Republic of China and in free circulation in the other Member States,

Whereas there are no opportunities for the importation into France of the product in question from the People's Republic of China on account of its sensitivity as regards national production ;

Whereas, according to information supplied by the French Government, the honey-producing sector — which is a feature of certain economically underprivileged mountain areas (the Alps, the Pyrenees and the Massif Central) — is facing a serious crisis resulting largely from difficulties in disposing of this year's exceptionally plentiful harvest ;

Whereas the indirect importation on which the application is based, although it appears to be an isolated operation, would be likely to aggravate further the precarious situation of the national production concerned in view of the substantial amount involved (about 2 % of French imports of natural honey from all third countries in 1975, namely 5 553 tonnes) ;

Whereas it is not possible to set in motion rapidly the machinery for bringing about the necessary cooperation from the other Member States ;

Whereas authorization should accordingly be given for the application of the 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 natural honey falling within heading No 04.06 of the Common Customs Tariff, where they originate in the People's Republic of China and are in free circulation in the other Member States, and in respect of which applica-

(1) OJ No L 121, 3. 6. 1971, p. 26.

tions for import licences lodged after 28 October 1976 are, at the date of this Decision, pending with the French authorities.

Article 2

This Decision is addressed to the French Republic.

Done at Brussels, 16 November 1976.

For the Commission

Finn GUNDELACH

Member of the Commission