II

(Acts whose publication is not obligatory)

COMMISSION

COMMISSION DECISION

of 17 November 1976

authorizing Ireland to maintain protective measures under Article 135 of the Act of Accession in respect of footwear with uppers of leather (Common Customs Tariff subheading 64.02 A)

(Only the English text is authentic)

(77/56/EEC)

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community,

Having regard to the Act of Accession, and in particular Article 135 thereof,

Having regard to Commission Decision 76/176/EEC of 22 December 1975 (1), as amended by Decision 76/571/EEC of 25 June 1976 (2), whereby Ireland was authorized under Article 135 of the abovementioned Act to take and maintain until 31 December 1976 protective measures in respect of imports of certain footwear,

Having regard to the application by Ireland dated 8 October 1976,

Whereas in the period since the assessment of the situation made in the said Decision of 25 June 1976 the Irish footwear industry has continued to encounter serious difficulties which are liable to persist; whereas statistics available for the period January to July 1976 indicate continuing and increased import penetration of the Irish market from both Member State and third country producers;

Whereas it is considered that reorganization of the Irish footwear industry is a first pre-requisite to the solution of these difficulties; whereas in pursuance of Commission Decision 75/478/EEC of 10 July 1975 (3), the Irish Government commissioned management consultants to draw up a reorganization plan for the footwear industry; whereas the management consultants have recently completed and submitted their report, which is currently under study by the competent Ministry and is the subject of consultation with industry and unions; whereas the finalization of the reorganization plan is anticipated for the end of March 1977; whereas a certain period of stability in the conditions of competition within the Irish domestic market is indispensable for the elaboration and implementation of such a plan; whereas the prolongation of existing protective measures until 31 December 1977 would appear strictly necessary and sufficient to enable the parties concerned to finalize and implement an agreed programme of reorganization,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

Commission Decision 76/176/EEC of 22 December 1975 is amended as follows:

In Article 1 the date '31 December 1976' is replaced by '31 December 1977'; in Article 3 (2) the date '1 November 1976' is replaced by '1 April 1977'.

Article 2

This Decision is addressed to Ireland.

Done at Brussels, 17 November 1976.

For the Commission

Finn GUNDELACH

Member of the Commission

(1) OJ No L 32, 6. 2. 1976, p. 22.
(2) OJ No L 182, 8. 7. 1976, p. 24.
(3) OJ No L 212, 9. 8. 1976, p. 17.