COMMISSION DECISION

of 28 June 1977

authorizing the Kingdom of Belgium, the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg and the Kingdom of the Netherlands not to apply Community treatment to men's shirts of mixed synthetic textile fibres and cotton falling within heading No ex 61.03 of the Common Customs Tariff, originating in Hong Kong and in free circulation in the other Member States

(Only the French and Dutch texts are authentic)

(77/653/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 20 June 1977 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 shirts of mixed synthetic textile fibres and cotton falling within heading No ex 61.03 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 and concluded on 8 April 1976;

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

Whereas there are serious economic difficulties in the sector in question resulting in a drop in production and considerable unemployment;

Whereas further imports of the products in question which would be in addition to those already effected, would be likely to aggravate those difficulties;

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 protective measures, under the first paragraph of Article 115, subject to the conditions laid down by the Commission Decision of 12 May 1971 [1], and in particular Article 1 thereof;

Whereas the application for a licence which gave rise to the application under Article 115 should not be covered by this authorization in view of the small amount involved,

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 shirts of mixed synthetic textile fibres and cotton, falling within heading No ex 61.03 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 application for import licences were lodged after the date of this Decision.

Article 2

This Decision shall apply until new opportunities arise in the Benelux countries for the importation of the products in question from Hong Kong and in any case not later than 31 December 1977.

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, 28 June 1977.

For the Commission

Wilhelm HAFERKAMP

Vice-President

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