COMMISSION DECISION

of 17 January 1978

authorizing the French Republic not to apply Community treatment to handkerchiefs falling within heading No ex 61.05 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)

(78/173/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 11 January 1978 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 handkerchiefs falling within heading No ex 61.05 of the Common Customs Tariff, originating in the People's Republic of China and in free circulation in the other Member States,

Whereas for the products in question France is not at present authorizing any imports direct from the People's Republic of China, pending the opening of the quota set by the Council Decision of 20 December 1977 ;

Whereas according to information supplied by the French authorities, there are economic difficulties in the sector in question ;

Whereas the granting of the import licences which gave rise to this application would be likely to obstruct the trade policy measures taken by France to remedy the abovementioned 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 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 handkerchiefs falling within heading No ex 61.05 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 applications for import licences lodged after 28 December 1977 are, on the date of this Decision, pending with the French authorities.

Article 2

This Decision is addressed to the French Republic.

Done at Brussels, 17 January 1978.

For the Commission

Wilhelm HAFERKAMP

Vice-President

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