COMMISSION DECISION

of 19 January 1978

authorizing the Kingdom of Belgium, the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg and the Kingdom of the Netherlands not to apply Community treatment to industrial and occupational clothing of mixed synthetic textile fibres and of cotton for men and women, falling within heading Nos ex 61.01 and ex 61.02 of the Common Customs Tariff, originating in Hong Kong and in free circulation in the other Member States

(Only the Dutch and French texts are authentic)

(78/199/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 January 1978 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 industrial and occupational clothing of mixed synthetic textile fibres and of cotton for men and women, falling within heading Nos ex 61.01 and ex 61.02 of the Common Customs Tariff, originating in Hong Kong and in free circulation in the other Member States,

Whereas imports into the Community of the products in question originating in Hong Kong are 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 Member States ;

Whereas there are economic difficulties in the industry in question and these difficulties are aggravated by imports of low-priced products from third countries ;

Whereas imports of the products in question would be likely to implicate the aims pursued by the above-mentioned Agreement ;

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

Whereas authorization should therefore be given, for a limited period, 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,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION :

Article 1

The Kingdom of Belgium, the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg and the Kingdom of the Netherlands are hereby authorized not to apply Community treatment to industrial and occupational clothing of mixed synthetic textile fibres and of cotton for men and women, falling within heading Nos ex 61.01 and ex 61.02 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 lodged after 2 January 1978 are, on the date of this Decision, pending with the Benelux authorities.

Article 2

This Decision is addressed to the Kingdom of Belgium, the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg and the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

Done at Brussels, 19 January 1978.

For the Commission

Étienne DAVIGNON

Member of the Commission

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