COMMISSION

COMMISSION DECISION

of 18 April 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)

(78/421/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 10 April 1978 by the French Government to the Commission of 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 in France the importation of the products in question originating in the People's Republic of China is, in accordance with the Council Decision of 20 December 1977 [1], subject to an annual quota, which has already been wholly taken up;

Whereas disparities in the commercial policy measures applied in connection with these products by the Member States are giving rise to deflection of trade, thus preventing the execution of those commercial policy measures, which are in force because of the difficult economic situation in the sector concerned;

Whereas according to the application submitted there are serious difficulties in the industrial sector concerned, involving a considerable drop in production and employment;

Whereas further indirect imports, in addition to those already effected, would be likely to aggravate these 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 [2], and in particular Article 1 thereof,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

The French Republic is authorized not to apply Community treatment to the products indicated below, 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 were lodged after 12 April 1978:

CCT heading No	Description
ex 61.05	Handkerchiefs

Article 2

This Decision shall apply until new opportunities arise for the importation of these products from the People's Republic of China or until 31 December 1978, whichever is the earlier.

Article 3

This Decision is addressed to the French Republic.

Done at Brussels, 18 April 1978.

For the Commission

Guido BRUNNER

Member of the Commission

(1) OJ No L 357, 31. 12. 1977, p. 1.

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