REGULATION (EEC) No 3376/73 OF THE COUNCIL

of 10 December 1973

on the opening, allocation, and administration of a Community tariff quota for hazelnuts, falling within subheading ex 08.05 G of the Common Customs Tariff and originating in Turkey

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community, and in particular Articles 43 and 113 thereof;

Having regard to the proposal from the Commission;

Having regard to the Opinion of the European Parliament;

Whereas under Article 1 of Council Regulation (EEC) No 3375/73 [1] of 10 December 1973 concerning the importation into the Community of certain agricultural products originating in Turkey, the Community must reduce by 37·5 % the duty applied to the import of fresh or dried hazelnuts, shelled or otherwise, falling within subheading ex 08.05 G of the Common Customs Tariff, within the limit of a Community tariff quota of 21 700 metric tons; whereas this quota results from the adaptation, to take account of the Accession of the new Member States, of the Community tariff quota of 18 700 metric tons laid down for the Community as originally constituted in the Agreement establishing an Association between the European Economic Community and Turkey and in the Additional Protocol; whereas the Community tariff quota concerned should therefore be opened for 1974; whereas the application of a 37·5 % reduction to the Common Customs Tariff duty would result in a quota duty of 2·5 % for the Community as originally constituted; whereas, as regards the new Member States, it should be noted that Article 2 (1) and (3) of the Interim Agreement bringing into force certain provisions of the Supplementary Protocol provides that the reductions of customs duties pursuant to the Association Agreement shall be applied by the new Member States from the entry into force of the Interim Agreement in the proportions and according to the time limits laid down, that the rates on which the new Member States shall base those reductions shall be those which they apply at any given moment to non-member countries and that the rates fixed as a result of the reductions regarding the products listed, in particular, in Annex 6 to the Additional Protocol — and which include hazelnuts — may in no case be lower than those applied by the new Member States with reference to the Community as originally constituted; whereas the reduction to be applied by the new Member States within the framework of the tariff quota under consideration must therefore, in certain cases, be limited to 20 %;

Whereas it is in particular necessary to ensure to all importers of the Member States equal and uninterrupted access to the said quota and uninterrupted application of the rate laid down for that quota to all imports of the products concerned into all Member States until the quota has been used up; whereas having regard to the above principles, the Community nature of the quota can be respected by allocating the Community tariff quota among the Member States; whereas, to reflect most accurately the actual development of the market in the products concerned, such allocation should be in proportion to the needs of the Member States, assessed by reference both to the statistics relating to imports from Turkey over a representative period, and to the economic outlook for the quota period concerned;

Whereas, on the basis of the statistics at present available, which refer only to 1972 and the first few months of 1973, imports into the Member States during 1972 of the product concerned originating in Turkey represent the following percentages of total imports into the Community, whereas if the statistics for the first few months of 1973 were extrapolated, the percentages for the whole year would be as follows:

		Extrapolation
	1972	*1973*
Germany	70·60	60·85
Benelux	10·02	18·57
France	9·42	11·02
Italy	0·38	0·28
Denmark	1·52	1·88
Ireland	0·80	1·10
United Kingdom	7·26	6·30

Whereas, taking into account these figures and the foreseeable development of the product concerned during 1974 and, in particular, the forecasts made by some Member States, the initial shares may be fixed

[1] See page 1 of this Official Journal.

approximately at the following percentages :

Germany	65·93
Benelux	10·14
France	8·20
Italy	0·25
Denmark	2·67
Ireland	1·66
United Kingdom	11·15

Whereas in order to take into account the import trends for the product concerned in the Member States, the quota volume should be divided into two instalments, the first instalment being allocated to the Member States, and the second forming a reserve intended ultimately to cover the requirements of the Member States, should their initial share be used up ; whereas, in order to ensure a certain degree of security to importers, the first instalment of the Community quota should be determined at a relatively high level, which under present circumstances could be approximately 80 % of the quota volume ;

Whereas the initial shares may be used up sooner or later ; whereas, in order to take this fact into account and to avoid any break in continuity, it is important that any Member State which has used up almost all its initial share should draw an additional share from the reserve ; whereas this must be done as and when each of its additional shares in the quota is almost entirely used up, and repeated as often as the reserve allows ; whereas the initial and additional shares must be available for use until the end of the quota period ; whereas this method of administration calls for close cooperation between the Member States and the Commission, which must in particular be able to observe the extent to which the quota volume is used up and inform the Member States thereof ;

Whereas if, at a specified date in the quota period, a considerable balance remains in any Member State, it is essential that the Member State should return a certain proportion thereof to the reserve, in order to avoid part of the Community quota remaining unused in one Member State when it could be used in others ; whereas, taking into account the seasonal nature of imports, it seems appropriate to fix the transfer limit of 40 % of the initial share ;

Whereas, since the Kingdom of Belgium, the Kingdom of the Netherlands and the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg are united in and represented by the Benelux Economic Union, all transactions concerning the administration of the shares granted to the above-mentioned Economic Union may be carried out by one of its members,

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION :

Article 1

1. During the period from 1 January to 31 December 1974 a Community tariff quota of 21 700 metric tons shall be opened in the Community for fresh or dried hazelnuts, shelled or otherwise, falling within subheading ex 08.05 G, of the Common Customs Tariff and originating in Turkey.

2. Within this tariff quota, the Common Customs Tariff duty is suspended at 2·5 %.

3. The new Member States shall apply within this Community tariff quota, the customs duties calculated in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Act of Accession, in the Interior agreement and in Regulation (EEC) No 3375/73 :

4. This tariff quota shall be allocated and administered in accordance with the following provisions.

Article 2

1. The tariff quota referred to in Article 1 (1) shall be divided into two instalments.

2. The first instalment, amounting to 17 700 metric tons, shall be shared amongst the Member States ; the shares which, subject to Article 5, shall be valid until 31 December 1974, shall be as follows ;

Germany	11 669 metric tons
Benelux	1 795 metric tons
France	1 451 metric tons
Italy	45 metric tons
Denmark	472 metric tons
Ireland	294 metric tons
United Kingdom	1 974 metric tons

3. The second instalment, amounting to 4 000 metric tons, shall constitute the reserve.

Article 3

1. If 90 % or more of any Member State's initial share, as laid down in Article 2 (2) — or 90 % of that share less the amount returned into the reserve, where Article 5 has been applied — has been exhausted, that Member State shall without delay, by notifying the Commission, draw a second share in the quota equal to 15 % of its initial share, rounded up to the next unit where appropriate, to the extent that the amount in the reserve allows.

2. If after its initial share has been exhausted 90 % or more of the second share drawn by a Member State has been used, that Member State shall, in the manner provided for in paragraph 1, draw a third share equal to 7·5 % of its initial share.

3. If after its second share has been exhausted 90 % or more of the third share drawn by that Member State has been used, it shall, in the manner provided for in paragraph 1, draw a fourth share equal to the third.

This process shall be applied in like manner until the reserve is exhausted.

4. Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraphs 1, 2 and 3, Member States may draw smaller shares than those fixed in those paragraphs if there is reason to believe that those shares might not be used up. They shall inform the Commission of their reasons for applying this paragraph.

Article 4

Additional shares drawn pursuant to Article 3 shall be valid until 31 December 1974.

Article 5

If, by 15 October 1974, a Member State has not used up its initial share, it shall, not later than 31 October 1974, return to the reserve the unused portion of this share in excess of 40 % of the initial amount. It may return a larger quantity if there are reasons to consider that such quantity may not be used.

The Member States shall, not later than 31 October 1974, notify the Commission of the total imports of the products concerned effected under the Community quota up to 15 October 1974 inclusive and, where appropriate, the proportion of their initial shares that they are returning to the reserve.

Article 6

The Commission shall keep account of the shares opened by Member States in accordance with Articles 2 and 3, and shall inform each of them of the extent to which the reserve has been used as soon as it receives the notifications.

The Commission shall, not later than 5 November 1974, notify the Member Stes of the state of the reserve after the return of shares pursuant to Article 5.

The Commission shall ensure that any drawing which uses up the reserve is limited to the balance available and, for this purpose, shall specify the amount thereof to the Member State which makes the final drawing.

Article 7

1. The Member States shall take all measures necessary to ensure that supplementary shares drawn pursuant to Article 3 are opened in such a way that changes may be made without interruption against their accumulative shares of the Community quota.

2. The Member States shall ensure that importers of the said products established in their territory have free access to the shares allocated to them or drawn from the reserve.

3. The Member States shall charge imports of the said goods against their shares as and when the goods are entered for home use.

4. The extent to which a Member State has used up its share shall be determined on the basis of the imports charged in accordance with paragraph 3.

Article 8

Member States shall regularly inform the Commission of imports actually charged against their shares.

Article 9

The Member States and the Commission shall cooperate closely in order to ensure the correct application of this Regulation.

Article 10

This Regulation shall enter into force on 1 January 1974.

This Regulation shall be binding in its entirety and directly applicable in all Member States.

Done at Brussels, 10 December 1973.

For the Council

The President

I. NØRGAARD