REGULATION (EEC) No 3509/73 OF THE COUNCIL

of 18 December 1973

on the opening of tariff preferences in the form of a partial suspension of customs duties for products made from jute and coir originating in India and products made from jute originating in Bangladesh

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community;

Having regard to the proposal from the Commission;

Whereas, within the context of UNCTAD, the European Economic Community offered to grant tariff preferences on finished and semi-finished products coming from developing countries; whereas the preferential treatment proposed in that offer covers, generally speaking, all finished and semi-finished industrial products covered by Chapters 25 to 99 of the Brussels Nomenclature which originate in developing countries;

Whereas the offer made by the Community includes a clause stating that the Community drew up the offer on the assumption that all the main industrialized countries which are members of the OECD would participate in granting preferences and would make similar efforts in this direction; whereas, moreover, it is evident from the conclusions worked out in UNCTAD that this offer, while being of a temporary nature, does not constitute a binding commitment and, in particular, may be withdrawn wholly or in part at a later date; whereas this possibility may be adopted *inter alia* with a view to remedying any unfavourable situations which might arise in the associated countries following the implementation of the generalized preference scheme;

Whereas, however, as regards jute and coir products, the said offer includes the elimination of customs duties only where special arrangements have been made with the developing exporting countries;

Whereas an Agreement has just been concluded between the Community and India concerning products made from jute and coir; whereas the said Agreement refers, in particular, to the 'Joint Declaration of Intent on the development of trade relations with Sri Lanka, India, Malaysia, Pakistan and Singapore' contained in the Act of Accession [1] and laying down special regulations governing trade in these products with the Community;

Whereas, as regards Bangladesh, negotiations are taking place to conclude an agreement on an identical basis to that of the Agreement between the Community and India;

Whereas, it is provided, in particular, that the Commission should, autonomously and within the scope of its offer on the granting of generalized tariff preferences for products made from jute and coir originating in India and Bangladesh, partially and by stages suspend out Common Customs Tariff duties relating to these products from 1 January 1974;

Whereas, in accordance with Protocol No 23 to the Act of Accession, the generalized tariff preference scheme will be fully applicable in the new Member states from 1 January 1974; whereas, however, Article 2 (2) of the abovementioned Agreements concerning these products lays down that in Denmark, Ireland and the United Kingdom the tariff adjustments resulting from the opening of the preferences in question may be introduced gradually;

Whereas, therefore, in respect of the products covered by Article 1 of this Regulation, the Community should until 31 December 1974 allow imports to be partially free from customs duties in respect of products made from jute and coir as regards India and, in respect of products made from jute as regards Bangladesh until 30 June 1974;

Whereas the benefit of these suspensions should be granted to the said products originating in India and Bangladesh; whereas, to this end, the provisions concerning the definition of the concept of originating products should be applied to tariff preferences granted by the Community to the products from developing countries for the period from 1 January until 31 December 1974,

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

Article 1

1. From 1 January 1974, the Common Customs Tariff duties on the products listed hereafter shall be suspended preferentially at the rates shown in respect thereof:

[1] OJ No L 73, 27. 3. 1972, p. 14.

CCT heading No	Description	Rate of duty
ex 57.06	Jute yarn	4·8
ex 57.10	Woven fabrics of jute:	
	A. Of a width of not more than 150 cm and weighing per m^2:	
	I. Less than 310 g	12
	II. Not less than 310 g but not more than 500 g	11·4
	III. More than 500 g	9
	B. Of a width more than 150 cm	13·2
58.02	Other carpets, carpeting, rugs, mats and matting, and 'Kellem', 'Schumacks' and 'Karamanie' rugs and the like (made up or not):	
	A. Carpets, carpeting, rugs, mats and matting:	
	ex I. Coir mats and matting	13·8
62.03	Sacks and bags, of a kind used for the packing of goods:	
	ex A. Of jute:	
	II. Other:	
	a) Of fabric weighing less than 310 g/m^2	12
	b) Of fabric weighing not less than 310 g/m^2 but not more than 500 g/m^2	11·4
	c) Of fabric weighing more than 500 g/m^2	9

2. On imports of the said goods into Denmark and the United Kingdom, the duties to be applied shall be those of their customs tariff suspended at the level of those applied in 1973. For jute textile products falling within heading Nos ex 57.06, ex 57.10 and 62.03 ex A II referred to in paragraph 1, Ireland shall align its national customs tariff duties on the abovementioned preferential rates on the dates and in the order fixed in Article 39 (1) and (2) of the Act of Accession.

3. The benefit of the suspensions referred to in Article 1 shall be reserved for products originating in India until 31 December 1974. The products originating in Bangladesh, except coir mats and matting, shall also benefit from these suspensions, until 30 June 1974. For the purposes of this Regulation the concept of originating products shall be that laid down by Commission Regulation (EEC) No 3614/73 [1] applicable to products benefiting from tariff preferences granted by the Community to developing countries for the period from 1 January until 31 December 1974.

Article 2

1. The Commission, in close collaboration with Member States, shall take all necessary measures to ensure that the foregoing provisions are applied.

2. The Member States shall regularly inform the Commission of imports benefiting under the preceding provisions.

Article 3

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, 18 December 1973.

For the Council

The President

J. CHRISTENSffN

[1] See p. 132 of this Official Journal.