REGULATION (EEC) No 1295/75 OF THE COMMISSION

of 22 May 1975

subjecting to authorization imports into the Federal Republic of Germany and the Benelux countries of synthetic socks originating in the Republic of Korea

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community ;

Having regard to Council Regulation (EEC) No 1439/74 (1) of 4 June 1974 on common rules for imports, and in particular Article 12 thereof ;

Having consulted the Advisory Committee set up under Article 5 of the said Regulation ;

Whereas imports of synthetic socks corresponding to Nimexe positions 60.03.25 and 60.03.27, originating in the Republic of Korea, have increased sharply and substantially in the last few years ;

Whereas this development has manifested itself principally on the German and Benelux markets, with the result that imports have increased from 9 million pairs in 1971 to about 40 million pairs in 1974 in Germany, and from 3·9 million pairs in 1971 to more than 10 million pairs in 1974 in the Benelux countries ;

Whereas these products are offered for sale on the markets principally affected at prices which are substantially below those prevailing for similar goods produced by Community producers ;

Whereas according to the information available to the Commission, these imports already represented at the end of 1974 a market share of approximately 20 % in Germany and the Benelux countries ;

Whereas this development has been carried out to the detriment of the Community industry, whose production has fallen considerably over the last few years and whereas more than 30 factories have had to cease production of these products with resultant unemployment, transfers and reduction of working hours for several thousand employees ;

Whereas all these factors have caused market disruption and have caused serious damage to the Community producers ;

Whereas a further sharp and substantial increase in imports of these products may be considered to be imminent in view of the fact that import documents have been issued or endorsed, in accordance with the Community surveillance procedure established by Regulation (EEC) No 2967/74 (2), for the last three months for which results are available for quantities exceeding 18 million pairs in Germany and 12 million pairs in the Benelux countries, and whereas in the absence of immediate protective measures this aggravation of the damage already caused to Community producers would make it difficult to repair ;

Whereas in these highly unusual and critical circumstances, it is necessary that immediate action be taken to safeguard the interests of the Community, these measures to consist of the introduction of temporary limitation of imports, in accordance with the provisions of the Arrangement Regarding International Trade in Textiles, account being taken, however, of the interests of Korea, especially in regard to its stage of development and the importance of the textiles sector to the economy of that country ;

Whereas the concentration of imports of the products concerned on the German and Benelux markets justifies the limitation, for the moment, of the application of these safeguard measures to imports into those regions of the Community ;

Whereas these measures shall not prejudice the result of the consultations and negotiations which, in accordance with the said Arrangement, are at the moment taking place between the European Economic Community and the Republic of Korea, and whereas they may be adapted, having regard to the results of these negotiations,

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION :

Article 1

The importation into the Federal Republic of Germany and the Benelux countries of stockings, other than women's, under-stockings, socks and ankle socks, sockettes and the like, knitted or crocheted, not elastic nor rubberized, of synthetic fibres, corresponding to Nimexe positions 60.03.25 and 60.03.27, originating in the Republic of Korea, is hereby made subject to the presentation of an import authorization issued by the competent authorities of the importing country.

The total quantity of the products for which import authorizations shall be issued during a period of six months commencing on the date of entry into force of this Regulation shall not exceed the following amounts :

Germany : 18 million pairs

Benelux : 5·3 million pairs.

(1) OJ No L 159, 15. 6. 1974, p. 1.
(2) OJ No L 316, 26. 11. 1974, p. 7.

Article 2

1. This Regulation shall enter into force on the day following its publication in the *Official Journal of the European Communities.*

2. It shall apply up to the entry into force of appropriate measures to be taken by the Council in accordance with Article 12, paragraph 6 and Article 13 of Regulation (EEC) No 1439/74 and at the latest until the expiry of a period of six weeks after its entry into force.

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

Done at Brussels, 22 May 1975.

For the Commission

The President

François-Xavier ORTOLI