REGULATION (EEC) No 3015/75 OF THE COUNCIL

of 17 November 1975

opening, allocating and providing for the administration of a Community tariff quota for raw or unmanufactured flue-cured Virginia type tobacco originating in developing countries

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

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

Having regard to the proposal from the Commission;

Having regard to the Opinion of the European Parliament (1);

Whereas in the Joint Declaration of Intent (2) on the development of trade relations with Sri Lanka, India, Malaysia, Pakistan and Singapore, the Community declared its readiness to seek solutions to the problems which may arise in the field of trade with the countries referred to;

Whereas, on the one hand, for several Asian countries of the Commonwealth and particularly India, the type of unmanufactured tobacco concerned is an important export product and the flow of trade in such products is likely to be changed as a result of the enlargement of the Community and, on the other hand, these countries are among the worst hit by the present economic crisis; whereas the system of generalized tariff preferences may constitute a solution to the problems of this nature; whereas this type of tobacco should exceptionally be included for a transitional period in the system of generalized preferences;

Whereas, within the context of UNCTAD, the European Economic Community offered to grant tariff preferences on certain processed agricultural products of Chapters 1 to 24 of the Common Customs Tariff which originate in developing countries; whereas the preferential treatment proposed in that offer consists, in respect of certain goods which are subject to the trade arrangements laid down in Regulation (EEC) No 1059/69, of a reduction in the fixed component of the charge applicable to such goods by virtue of that Regulation, and, in respect of products which are subject to the single customs duty, of a reduction in such duty; whereas preferential imports of the products concerned could be effected without quantitative restrictions; whereas it appears appropriate, however, in view of the sensitiveness of the tobacco sector generally and of the need to safeguard the interests of the associated countries and of the ACP States in this field, to lay down for raw or unmanufactured flue-cured Virginia type tobacco special conditions consisting in a reduction of the customs duty applicable to that product within the limits of a Community tariff quota;

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 ACP States following the implementation of the generalized preference scheme;

Whereas tariff preferences have been applied as from the second half of 1971; whereas, however, for the type of tobacco in question the said system of tariff preferences has been made applicable in 1974 as a transitional measure and it is appropriate to continue this system for 1976;

Whereas it is expedient, therefore, that the Community should open for 1976 for raw or unmanufactured flue-cured Virginia type tobacco, originating in the countries and territories listed in the Annex, a Community tariff quota limited to 38 000 metric tons, at a customs duty rate of 10·5% with a minimum charge of 12·5 units of account and a maximum charge of 15 units of account per 100 kilogrammes net weight;

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(1) OJ No C 257, 10. 11. 1975, p. 30.
(2) OJ No L 73, 27. 3. 1972, p. 195.

Whereas, in accordance with Protocol 23 to the Act of Accession (1), the generalized tariff preference scheme became fully applicable in the new Member States on 1 January 1974;

Whereas, for the product concerned, this scheme would, however, involve the application in the new Member States in 1976 of customs duties higher than or very close to those which will be applied by the new Member States to non-member countries in general on the basis of the provisions of the abovementioned Act; whereas this situation would comply neither with the spirit nor with the very nature of the generalized preference scheme; whereas, in order to maintain an equivalent preferential margin for these products also, reduced customs duties should be applied to them, in accordance with detailed rules based on the principle of maintaining, in the new Member States, a preference proportional to that which exists between the duties of the Common Customs Tariff and the duties given in Article 1 of this Regulation; whereas, with a view to granting the beneficiary developing countries the best possible treatment, in accordance with the objectives of the preference scheme, the duties given in the abovementioned Article 1 should also be applied wherever the duties calculated according to the abovementioned detailed rules prove to be higher than them;

Whereas the benefit of this tariff quota should be reserved for products originating in the countries and territories under consideration, the concept of 'originating products' being determined in accordance with the procedure laid down in Article 14 of Council Regulation (EEC) No 802/68 (1) of 27 June 1968 on the common definition of the concept of the origin of goods;

Whereas it is necessary to ensure equal and continuous access for all Community importers to the abovementioned quota and the uninterrupted application of the rate laid down for this quota to all imports of the products concerned into all Member States until this quota is used up; whereas, having regard to the principles set out above, the Community nature of the quota can be respected by allocating the Community tariff quota among Member States; whereas, moreover, to this end and in the context of the utilization system, the actual charges against the quota may relate only to products which have been entered for home use and which are accompanied by a certificate of origin;

(1) OJ No L 73, 27. 3. 1972, p. 178.
(2) OJ No L 148, 28. 6. 1968, p. 1.

Whereas, on the basis of the available statistical data which cover only a relatively brief period and whereas they should be weighted on the basis of the estimates which may be made in respect of the quota year, the shares in the quota amount may be set out as follows:

Germany	4 350 metric tons
Benelux	3 250 metric tons
France	700 metric tons
Italy	3 000 metric tons
Denmark	1 900 metric tons
Ireland	1 500 metric tons
United Kingdom	23 300 metric tons

Whereas, without affecting the Community nature of the tariff quota under consideration, it appears possible to provide temporarily for a utilization scheme based on a single allocation among the Member States; whereas, moreover, the allocation set out by this Regulation in no way prejudices the possibility of adopting the general method of allocation of Community tariff quotas comprising the setting up of a reserve share; whereas at this transitional stage it appears feasible that such allocation could be made according to the amounts set out above;

Whereas the shares of the Member States in the Community tariff quota, in view of its duration and its amount, do not appear in this instance to compromise the equal access for Community importers to Community tariff quotas; whereas for this same reason it would appear expedient to allow each Member State to choose the system for administering its 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 share allocated to that Economic Union may be carried out by any one of its members,

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

Article 1

1. From 1 January to 31 December 1976 a Community tariff quota of 38 000 metric tons shall be opened in the Community for the imports of raw or unmanufactured flue-cured Virginia type tobacco falling within subheading ex 24.01 B of the Common Customs Tariff. Within this tariff quota the customs

duty shall be suspended at 10·5% with a minimum charge of 12·5 units of account and a maximum charge of 15 units of account per 100 kilogrammes net weight.

On importation into Denmark, Ireland and the United Kingdom, there shall be applied the customs duties determined by multiplying, by a coefficient equal to the margin of preferences existing between the duty given in the first subparagraph and the Common Customs Tariff duties applicable, the duties obtained by reducing by 80% the difference between the lowest duty applied on 1 January 1972 to the developing countries set out in the Annex and the Common Customs Tariff.

However, the duties given in the first subparagraph shall be applied where the duties resulting from the abovementioned calculation are higher than them.

2. This tariff quota shall apply solely to products originating in the countries and territories listed in the Annex. However, those imports which enjoy exemption from customs duties under other preferential tariff arrangements granted by the Community may not be charged against this tariff quota.

For the purposes of the application of this Regulation the concept of 'originating products' shall be determined in accordance with the procedure laid down in Article 14 of Regulation (EEC) No 802/68.

Entry to this tariff quota shall be subject to the production of a certificate of authenticity appearing in the certificate of origin and made out in accordance with the procedure referred to in the second subparagraph.

Article 2

The Community tariff quota mentioned in Article 1 shall be allocated in shares which, for each Member State, shall be of the amount indicated below.

Germany	4 350	metric tons
Benelux	3 250	metric tons
France	700	metric tons
Italy	3 000	metric tons
Denmark	1 900	metric tons
Ireland	1 500	metric tons
United Kingdom	23 300	metric tons

Article 3

1. The Member States shall ensure free access to the share which has been allocated to them for importers of the products concerned who are established on their territory.

2. The extent to which the shares of Member States have been actually filled shall be determined on the basis of imports of the said goods which have been entered for home use, and which are accompanied by a certificate of origin in accordance with the rules referred to in Article 1 (2).

3. Goods may qualify for a tariff quota only if the certificate of origin referred to in paragraph 2 is submitted before the date on which the levying of duties is re-introduced.

Article 4

Member States shall inform the Commission at monthly intervals of imports of the said goods actually charged against their shares. This information shall show both the value expressed in units of account and the quantity expressed in metric tons.

Article 5

Member States and the Commission shall cooperate closely to ensure that the above Articles are observed.

Article 6

This Regulation shall enter into force on 1 January 1976.

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

Done at Brussels, 17 November 1975.

For the Council

The President

E. COLOMBO

ANNEX

List of developing countries and territories enjoying generalized tariff preferences

INDEPENDENT COUNTRIES

Afghanistan
Algeria
Argentina
Bahamas
Bahrain
Bangladesh
Barbados
Bhutan
Bolivia
Botswana
Brazil
Burma
Burundi
Cameroon
Cape Verde Islands
Central African Republic
Chad
Chile
Colombia
Congo, People's Republic of
Costa Rica
Cuba
Cyprus
Dahomey
Dominican Republic
Ecuador
Egypt, Arab Republic of
El Salvador
Equatorial Guinea
Ethiopia
Fiji
Gabon
Gambia
Ghana
Grenada
Guatemala
Guinea
Guinea Bissau
Guyana
Haiti
Honduras
India
Indonesia
Iran
Iraq
Ivory Coast
Jamaica
Jordan
Kenya
Khmer Republic
Korea (South)
Kuwait
Laos
Lebanon
Lesotho
Liberia
Libya
Malagasy Republic
Malawi
Malaysia
Maldive Islands
Mali
Mauritania
Mauritius
Mexico
Morocco
Nauru
Nepal
Nicaragua
Niger
Nigeria
Oman
Pakistan
Panama
Papua New Guinea
Paraguay
Peru
Philippines
Qatar
Rwanda
Saudi Arabia
Senegal
Sierra Leone
Singapore
Somalia
Sri Lanka
Sudan
Surinam
Swaziland
Syria
Tanzania
Thailand
Togo
Tonga
Trinidad and Tobago
Tunisia
Uganda
United Arab Emirates:
- Abu Dhabi
- Dubai
- Ras al Khaimah
- Fujairah
- Ajman
- Sharjah
- Ummal Qaiwain

Upper Volta
Uruguay
Venezuela
Vietnam, Republic of
Western Samoa
Yemen, People's Democratic Republic of
Yemen Arab Republic
Yugoslavia
Zaïre
Zambia

COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES

dependent or administered, or for whose external relations Member States of the Community or third countries are wholly or partly responsible

Afars and Issas (Territory of the)
Angola (including Cabinda)
Australian Antarctic Territory
Belize
Bermuda
British Antarctic Territory
British Indian Ocean Territory (Aldabra, Farquhar, Chagos Archipelago, Desroches)
British Pacific Ocean (1)
Brunei
Cayman Islands and Dependencies
Christmas Island
Cocos (Keeling) Islands
Comoro Archipelago
Corn Islands and Swan Islands
Falkland Islands and Dependencies
French Polynesia
French Southern and Antarctic Territories
Gibraltar
Heard Island and McDonald Islands
Hong Kong
Leeward Islands (2)
Macao
Mozambique
Netherlands Antilles
New Caledonia and Dependencies
Norfolk Island
Pacific Islands administered by the United States of America or under United States trusteeship (3)
Portuguese Timor
St Helena (including Ascension, Gough Island, and Tristan da Cunha)
Saint Pierre and Miquelon
Sâo Tomé and Principe
Seychelles (including Amirantes)
Sikkim
Spanish territories in Africa
Territories for which New Zealand is responsible (Cook Islands, Niue Island, Tokelau Islands and Ross Dependency)
Turks and Caicos Islands
Virgin Islands of the United States (St Croix, St Thomas, St John, etc.)
Wallis and Futuna Islands
Windward Islands (4)

Note: The above lists may be amended subsequently to take account of changes in the international status of countries or territories.

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(1) Gilbert Islands, Tuvalu, British Solomon Islands, New Hebrides Condominium, and Pitcairn Islands.

(2) Antigua, Montserrat, St Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla, British Virgin Islands.

(3) The Pacific Islands administered by the United States of America include: Guam, American Samoa (including Swain's Island), Midway Islands, Johnston and Sand Islands, Wake Island and the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands (the Caroline, Marianas and Marshall Islands).

(4) Dominica, St Lucia, St Vincent.