REGULATION (EEC) No 3152/75 OF THE COUNCIL

of 24 November 1975

opening, allocating and providing for the administration of a Community tariff quota for outer garments and other articles, knitted or crocheted, not elastic or rubberized, falling within heading No 60.05 of the Common Customs Tariff, originating in Malta (1976)

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

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

Having regard to the proposal from the Commission;

Whereas the Agreement between the European Economic Community and Malta, signed at Valetta on 5 December 1970, provides in Article 3 (1) together with Article 2 of Annex I for the opening by the Community of an annual Community tariff quota of 100 metric tons of outer garments and other articles, knitted or crocheted, not elastic or rubberized, falling within heading No 60.05 of the Common Customs Tariff, originating in Malta; whereas the first stage of the Agreement ends on 31 March 1976 and, pursuant to Article 6 of Annex I, the *pro rata temporis* clause would apply to the volume of the quota; whereas the Community intends to maintain its trading relations with Malta; whereas the provisions governing the second stage should not be less favourable than those laid down for the first; whereas in order not to disrupt trading patterns for the products in question, the Community tariff quota should be opened for the whole of 1976; whereas, pursuant to Article 1 of the said Annex, the quota duty is equal to 30% of the Common Customs Tariff duty in respect of the product concerned; whereas, with a view to granting Malta treatment not less favourable than that enjoyed by countries eligible for the generalized preferences system, the abovementioned volume should be increased to 158 metric tons and the duties totally suspended; whereas, as regards the allocation of this tariff quota, the quota volume laid down in the Agreement should be confined to the original Member States and the new Member States should participate in the supplementary volume;

Whereas it is in particular necessary to ensure to all Community importers equal and uninterrupted access to the abovementioned 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 principles mentioned above, the Community nature of the quota can be respected by allocating the Community tariff quota among the Member States; whereas, in order to reflect more accurately the actual development of the market in the product concerned, such allocation should be in proportion to the needs of the Member States, assessed by reference to both the statistics of each State's imports of the said goods from Malta over a representative period and the economic outlook for the quota period concerned;

Whereas, during the last three years for which statistics are available, the corresponding imports by each of the Member States represent the following percentages of the imports into the Community from Malta of the products concerned:

	1972		1973		1974	
Germany	4·3	0·8	—	—	4·0	1·8
Benelux	—	—	—	—	7·0	3·3
France	93·6	17·1	94·6	52·0	50·0	22·8
Italy	2·1	0·4	5·4	2·9	39·0	17·8
Denmark		—		0·6		1·8
Ireland		0·1		2·9		—
United Kingdom		81·6		41·0		52·5

Whereas both these percentages and the estimates from certain Member States as well as the practical need to ensure that the obligations contracted under the Agreement concerned are allocated fairly among all the Member States; whereas, initial quota shares may consequently be fixed approximately as follows:

Benelux	8·3
Denmark	4·2
France	41·7
Germany	12·5
Ireland	4·2
Italy	12·5
United Kingdom	16·6

Whereas, in order to take into account import trends for the products concerned in the different Member States, the quota amount should be divided into two instalments, the first instalment being allocated among the Member States and the second forming a reserve intended ultimately to cover the requirements of the Member States which have used up their initial quota shares; whereas, in order to ensure a certain degree of security to importers in each Member State, the first instalment of the Community quota should be determined at a level which, under present circumstances, may be 75% of the quota amount;

Whereas the initial shares of the Member States may be used up at different times; whereas, in order to take this fact into account and avoid any break in continuity, it is important that any Member State having used up almost the whole of its initial share should draw an additional share from the reserve; whereas, this must be done by each Member State as and when each of its additional shares is almost entirely used up, and repeated as many times 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 Member States and the Commission, which must, in particular, be able to observe the extent to which the quota amount is used and inform Member States thereof;

Whereas if, at a specified date in the quota period, a considerable balance remains in one or other Member State it is essential that that Member State pays a large amount of it back into the reserve, in order to prevent a part of the Community quota from remaining unused in one Member State when it could be used in others;

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, any measure concerning the administration of the quota shares allocated to that economic union may be carried out by any of its members,

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

Article 1

1. From 1 January to 31 December 1976 a Community tariff quota of 158 metric tons shall be opened in the Community for outer garments and other articles, knitted or crocheted, not elastic or rubberized, falling within heading No 60.05 of the Common Customs Tariff, originating in Malta.

2. Within the limits of this tariff quota the Common Customs Tariff duties shall be totally suspended.

This suspension shall be fully applied in the new Member States.

Article 2

1. A first instalment, amounting to 120 metric tons of the Community tariff quota referred to in Article 1, shall be shared among the Member States; the shares, which subject to Article 5 shall be valid until 31 December 1976, shall consist of the following amounts:

Benelux	10 metric tons,
Denmark	5 metric tons,
France	50 metric tons,
Germany	15 metric tons,
Ireland	5 metric tons,
Italy	15 metric tons,
United Kingdom	20 metric tons.

2. The second instalment of 38 metric tons shall constitute the reserve.

Article 3

1. If 90% or more of the initial share of a Member State, as laid down in Article 2 (1), or 90% of that share less the amount returned into the reserve, where the provisions of Article 5 have been applied, has been exhausted, that Member State shall proceed without delay, by notifying the Commission, to draw a second share 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 accordance with the conditions laid down in paragraph 1, proceed to draw a third share equal to 7·5% of its initial share, rounded up to the next unit where appropriate, to the extent that the amount in the reserve allows.

3. If, after its second share has been exhausted, 90% or more of the third share drawn by a Member State has been used, that Member State shall proceed, in the same way, to draw a fourth share equal to the third.

This process shall be applied until the reserve is exhausted.

4. Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraphs 1, 2 and 3, a Member State may proceed to draw shares smaller than those fixed in those paragraphs if there is reason to believe that they might not be used up. They shall inform the Commission of the reasons which led them to apply this paragraph.

Article 4

Each of the additional shares drawn pursuant to Article 3 shall be valid until 31 December 1976.

Article 5

The Member States shall return to the reserve, not later than 1 October 1976, the unused portion of their initial share which, on 15 September 1976, is in excess of 20% of their initial amount. They may return a larger portion if there are grounds for believing that such portion may not be used in full.

The Member States shall, not later than 1 October 1976, notify the Commission of the total imports of the product concerned effected up to and including 15 September 1976, and charged against the Community quota and, where appropriate, the proportion of their initial share that is being returned 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 October 1976, notify Member States of the amount in 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 last drawing.

Article 7

1. The Member States shall take all appropriate measures to ensure that, when additional shares are drawn pursuant to Article 3, it is possible for charges to be made without interruption against their accumulated shares of the Community quota.

2. The Member States shall ensure that importers of the product concerned established in their territory have free access to the shares allocated to them.

3. The Member States shall charge imports of the said goods against their share 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

On receipt of a request from the Commission, Member States shall inform it of imports actually charged against their shares.

Article 9

The Member States and the Commission shall cooperate closely in order to ensure that this Regulation is observed.

Article 10

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, 24 November 1975.

For the Council

The President

B. VISENTINI