COMMISSION REGULATION (EEC) No 162/76

of 23 January 1976

subjecting to authorization imports into Italy of cast-iron tube and pipe fittings originating in Taiwan

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 of 4 June 1974 on common rules for imports (1), and in particular Article 12 thereof,

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

Whereas, according to information furnished by the Italian authorities, the Italian market in cast-iron tube and pipe fittings is encountering a period of recession both in consumption, which was reduced by half between 1973 and 1975, and in production, which has fallen from 20 000 metric tons in 1974 to 12 000 metric tons in 1975; whereas this development has resulted in the accumulation of large quantities of stocks and in a very significant reduction in the rate of utilization of productive capacity;

Whereas these developments have had extremely grave repercussions on employment in the relevant sector, two factories, including the largest one, having had to cease production and, consequently, to make redundant approximately 1 000 workers and, of the 1 600 workers who remain employed, 1 500 are working half-time; whereas the locality of the factories concerned makes it particularly difficult to re-deploy the workers affected;

Whereas in this situation the Italian authorities have requested the immediate taking of protective measures with regard to Taiwan and have indicated that the prices prevailing for exports from Taiwan, which hold a large share of the Italian market, are very considerably lower than the prevailing domestic prices in Italy and are also considerably lower than the average price of other imports of this product;

Whereas, in the exceptional crisis situation at present facing this sector of Italian industry, the particular conditions under which Taiwanese products are imported cause or threaten to cause substantial injury to Italian producers of like products, and whereas immediate intervention in order to safeguard the interests of the Community is called for;

Whereas, for these reasons, it is necessary, as an exceptional measure and without prejudice to the position to be adopted in other sectors and towards other exporting countries, to establish quantitative import restrictions and to fix the level of such restrictions by reference to the volume of imports effected in 1975;

Whereas the concentration of Taiwanese exports on the Italian market justifies the limitation of the protective measures to Italy;

Whereas, in view of the uncertainty of developments in the sector, the period of validity of the measures should not extend beyond 30 June 1976,

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

Article 1

The importation into Italy of tube and pipe fittings (for example, joints, elbows, unions and flanges) of malleable cast-iron corresponding to Nimexe code No 73.20-30 originating in Taiwan is hereby made subject to the production of an import authorization issued by the competent Italian authorities.

The total quantity of the said products for which import authorizations may be issued during the period commencing on the date of entry into force of this Regulation and ending on 30 June 1976 shall not exceed 820 metric tons.

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 until the entry into force of appropriate measures to be taken by the Council in accordance with Articles 12 (6) and 13 of Regulation (EEC) No 1439/74 or until the expiry of a period of six weeks after its entry into force, whichever is the sooner.

(1) OJ No L 159, 15. 6. 1974, p. 1.

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

Done at Brussels, 23 January 1976.

For the Commission

Christopher SOAMES

Vice-President