COUNCIL REGULATION (EEC) No 1663/76

of 8 July 1976

on the opening of tariff preferences in the form of a partial suspension of customs duties for jute manufactures originating in India, Thailand and Bangladesh and for coir manufactures originating in India and Sri Lanka

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 in 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that this offer, while being of a temporary nature, does not constitute a binding commitment and, in particular, may be withdrawn wholly or in part at a later date ; whereas this facility may be retained, among other reasons, in order to remedy any unfavourable situations which might arise in the ACP States following the implementation of the generalized preferences 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 exporting developing countries ;

Whereas the Agreements concluded between the Community and India on jute [1] and coir [2] manufactures expired on 31 December 1975 ; whereas, pending the conclusion of a new agreement with India specifying the conditions for the implementation of the abovementioned special arrangements, the Community has decided that it is appropriate to renew the preferential tariff arrangements in force in 1975 for the first half of the 1976 preference year ; whereas, since the situation in Bangladesh as regards jute products is substantially the same as that described above, the same arrangements have also been adopted for that country ;

Whereas the negotiations with India on coir products have recently been completed and provide for a reduction of 80 % in the Common Customs Tariff duties from 1 July 1976 ; whereas that reduction should be applied on the above date in the context of the generalized preferences scheme ; whereas progress in the new negotiations with India and Bangladesh on jute products suggests that at the present time the preferential tariff arrangements adopted for the first half of 1976 should only be renewed until the end of that year ; whereas, in view of the special arrangements between the Community and Sri Lanka for coir manufactures and between the Community and Thailand for jute manufactures, the decision may also be taken to adopt or renew the existing preferential tariff arrangements for those two countries ;

Whereas, in accordance with Protocol 23 to the Act of Accession [3], the generalized preferences scheme became fully applicable in the new Member States on 1 January 1974 ;

Whereas the benefit of these suspensions should be restricted to the said products originating in India, Bangladesh, Thailand and Sri Lanka, the concept of 'originating products' being determined in accordance with the procedure laid down in Article 14 of Council Regulation (EEC) No 802/68 of 27 June 1968 on the common definition of the concept of the origin of goods [4],

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION :

Article 1

1. From 1 July until 31 December 1976 the Common Customs Tariff on products listed hereinafter shall be suspended at the following preferential rates :

(1) OJ No L 82, 27. 3. 1974, p. 11.
(2) OJ No L 82, 27. 3. 1974, p. 17.
(3) OJ No L 73, 27. 3. 1972, p. 14.
(4) OJ No L 148, 28. 6. 1968, p. 1.

CCT heading No	Description	Preferential rates of duty %
57.06	Yarn of jute or of other textile bast fibres of heading No 57.03	3·2
57.10	Woven fabrics of jute or of other textile bast fibres of heading No 57.03 :	
	A. Of a width of not more than 150 cm and weighing per m^2 :	
	I. Less than 310 g	8
	II. Not less than 310 g but not more than 500 g	7·6
	III. More than 500 g	6
	B. Of a width of more than 150 cm	11
58.02	Other carpets, carpeting, rugs, mats and matting and 'Kelem', 'Schumacks' and 'Karamanie' rugs and the like (made up or not) :	
	A. Carpets, carpeting, rugs, mats and matting :	
	ex I. Coir mats and coir matting and tufted carpets of coir	4·6
	Tufted carpets of other textile bast fibres of heading No 57.03	9·2
	ex II. Carpets, carpeting, rugs, mats and matting, of jute or of other textile bast fibres of heading No 57.03	0
ex 59.04	Twine, cordage, ropes and cables, plaited or not, of jute or of other textile bast fibres of heading No 57.03	0
62.03	Sacks and bags, of a kind used for the packing of goods :	
	A. of jute or of other textile bast fibres of heading No 57.03 :	
	II. Other :	
	(a) Of fabric weighing less than 310 g/m^2	8
	(b) Of fabric weighing not less than 310 g/m^2 but not more than 500 g/m^2	7·6
	(c) Of fabric weighing more than 500 g/m^2	6

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

3. The benefit of the suspensions referred to in paragraph 1 shall be afforded until 31 December 1976 to products originating in India. Products originating in Bangladesh and Thailand, with the exception of coir mats and matting and tufted carpets of coir, shall also benefit from these suspensions. Coir mats and matting and tufted carpets of coir originating in Sri Lanka shall also benefit from the suspensions. For the purposes 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.

Article 2

1. The Commission, in close collaboration with the 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 the day of its publication in the *Official Journal of the European Communities* and shall apply from 1 July 1976.

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

Done at Brussels, 8 July 1976.

For the Council

The President

M. van der STOEL