COMMISSION REGULATION (EEC) No 558/77

of 16 March 1977

subjecting to authorization imports into France and into the United Kingdom of certain knitted or crocheted under garments originating in the Kingdom of Thailand

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,

After consultation within the Advisory Committee established by Article 5 of that Regulation,

Whereas imports into the Community of knitted or crocheted shirts and similar garments originating in the Kingdom of Thailand have for some months been increasing rapidly and substantially;

Whereas this trend has been most evident in France and the United Kingdom, where imports of the products in question grew, according to information supplied by the authorities of those countries, in France from about 400 000 items in 1975 to over two million items in the first nine months of 1976, and in the United Kingdom from about 25 000 items in 1975 to over 500 000 items in the first three quarters of 1976;

Whereas, according to information available to the Commission, imports of the products in question from all third countries already accounted in 1975 for a market share approaching 42 % of national consumption in France and 65 % in the United Kingdom; whereas this share has since increased;

Whereas this increase in imports has been to the detriment of the industry in the Community, particularly in France and the United Kingdom, where production of the garments in question has declined appreciably in recent years and as a consequence there has been a substantial drop in employment in the industry in question;

Whereas all these factors have led to a disruption of the market and have caused grave damage to producers within the Community;

Whereas in view of this situation the Commission, at the request of the authorities of the two Member States mainly concerned, began consultations with the Thai authorities under Article 3 of the Arrangement regarding international trade in textiles (2) with a view to bringing about a reduction in imports of the products in question into the two Member States concerned;

Whereas these consultations resulted in an undertaking by the Thai authorities to introduce voluntary restraint of exports of the products in question to France and to the United Kingdom;

Whereas the effectiveness of the voluntary restraint measures introduced by the Thai authorities depends on the introduction on the Community's side of controls; whereas for this purpose imports of the products in question into France and into the United Kingdom must be made subject to authorization;

Whereas the above voluntary restraint measures provide for quantitative limits on exports effected during the year 1977;

Whereas the abovementioned import authorization arrangements must be established as soon as possible in order to ensure that they are not circumvented by the bringing forward of shipments or by indirect imports, which could cause damage difficult to repair to producers within the Community,

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

Article 1

1. The importation into France and into the United Kingdom of the goods described below originating in the Kingdom of Thailand and exported from that country in 1977, shall be subject to the presentation of an import authorization issued by the relevant authorities in the Member State concerned:

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

(2) OJ No L 118, 30. 4. 1974, p. 1.

CCT heading No	NIMEXE code (1977)	Description of goods
ex 60.04	60.04-ex 11 ; 13 ; ex 19 ; ex 29 ; 41 ; ex 49 ; ex 59 ; ex 70 ; ex 80	Under garments, knitted or crocheted, not elastic or rubberized : — Shirts, undervests, T-shirts, singlets and the like, other than of silk or noil or other waste silk or of flax or ramie

2. Import authorizations shall be issued for quantities such that the total volume of the imports referred to in paragraph 1 does not exceed to the following quantities :

— France 1 450 000 pieces,

— United Kingdom 1 400 000 pieces.

3. Within the limits indicated in paragraph 2, import authorizations shall be issued automatically and without delay on production of a bill of lading proving that the goods were placed on board in Thailand for export to France or the United Kingdom before the date of entry into force of this Regulation with a view to exportation, or on production of an export licence granted by the relevant authority in Thailand containing the information specified in the Annex hereto.

Article 2

1. This Regulation shall enter into force on the second 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 pursuant to Articles 12 (6) and 13 of Regulation (EEC) No 1439/74 or until the expiry of a period of six weeks following the entry into force of this Regulation, whichever is the earlier.

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

Done at Brussels, 16 March 1977.

For the Commission

Wilhelm HAFERKAMP

Vice-President

ANNEX

Information referred to in Article 1 (3)

Export licences issued by the Thai authorities (1) for the products referred to in this Regulation shall indicate or contain the following :

1. destination ;
2. serial number ;
3. name and address of the importer ;
4. name and address of the exporter ;
5. the quantity, in number of pieces, of the products covered by the licence ;
6. certification that the quantity concerned has been debited against the quantitative limit for exportation to the Member State of destination.

(1) The Department of Foreign Trade, Ministry of Commerce, Government of Thailand.