COMMISSION REGULATION (EEC) No 969/77

of 4 May 1977

making the importation into the Benelux countries of jute yarn from the Kingdom of Thailand subject to authorization

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,

Consultations having taken place within the Advisory Committee set up under Article 5 thereof,

Whereas imports into the Community of jute yarn originating in the Kingdom of Thailand have increased substantially in the past year;

Whereas this development has been particularly marked in the Benelux countries where imports of the products in question rose from 1 100 tones in 1975 to 4 000 tonnes in 1976, representing an increase of nearly 300 % and 73 % share of total imports in 1976 as against 42 % in 1975;

Whereas the prices of Thai jute yarn are considerably lower, by about 30 %, than the prices ruling on the market of the Benelux countries;

Whereas this increase has badly affected the Community industry in the Benelux countries, in particular Belgium where the production of jute yarn has decreased considerably over the past few years causing a reduction in employment and the closure of firms;

Whereas all these factors have given rise to market disruption and are causing substantial injury to Community producers;

Whereas these circumstances make it necessary that immediate action be taken to safeguard the interests of the Community, this action to consist in the introduction of protective measures with regard to the imports in question;

Whereas, in order to remedy this situation, the Community has held consultations with Thailand, in accordance with the exchange of letters between the Community and Thailand on the undertakings given by the latter in the context of the special measures to be adopted with the exporting developing countries as provided for in the Community's offer on generalized tariff preferences for jute products;

Whereas during these consultations no satisfactory solution has, at present, been found, that it is, therefore, necessary to adopt safeguard measures consisting of the limitation of imports of jute yarn for the period up to 31 December 1977, and that these measures do not prejudice the continuation of the consultations and that they would be able to be adapted taking into account the results of these consultations;

Whereas the substantial injury is due to imports intended for the market of the Benelux countries; whereas, in view of current trade flows, it would seem justified to confine the safeguard measures to imports into those countries at present;

Whereas the said temporary safeguard measures must apply until the entry into force of appropriate measures to be taken by the Council and at the latest until the expiry of a period of six weeks after the entry into force of this Regulation,

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

Article 1

1. The importation into the Benelux countries of the products indicated below, originating in the Kingdom of Thailand and imported from that country in 1977, is hereby made subject to the production of an import authorization granted by the competent authorities of the Member State concerned:

CCT heading No	Description of goods
57.06	Yarn of jute or of other textile bast fibres of heading No 57.03

2. Import authorizations shall be granted for a quantity which shall be such as to ensure that the total volume of the imports referred to in paragraph 1 does not exceed 4 030 tonnes.

3. Products entering the customs territory of the Benelux countries under the inward processing arrangements or under another temporary importation procedure which are re-exported from the customs territory of the Community shall not be counted against the quantitative limit fixed in paragraph 2.

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

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 up to 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 and at the latest until the expiry of a period of six weeks after its entry into force.

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

Done at Brussels, 4 May 1977.

For the Commission

Wilhelm HAFERKAMP

Vice-President