COUNCIL REGULATION (EEC) No 3687/81

of 15 December 1981

opening, allocating and providing for the administration of a Community tariff quota for certain fish of the species Sardinops sagax or ocellata, whole or headless, intended for processing, falling within subheading ex 03.01 B I q) of the Common Customs Tariff

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community, and in particular Article 28 thereof,

Whereas the production of fish of the species Sardinax sagax, or ocellata is currently insufficient in the Community to meet the requirements of the user industries in the Community; whereas, consequently, Community supplies of products of this type depend to a considerable extent on imports from third countries; whereas it is in the Community's interest to partially suspend the Common Customs Tariff duty for the products in question, within a Community tariff quota of an appropriate volume; whereas in order not to bring into question the development prospects of this production in the Community while ensuring an adequate supply to satisfy user industries, it is advisable to limit the benefits of tariff quotas solely to products which meet certain criteria as to dimension and use, to open the quota for the period from 1 January to 30 June 1982 and to fix the volume of this quota at a level of 3 000 tonnes, corresponding to the needs for imports from third countries during that period, and to fix the quota duty at 9 %;

Whereas equal and continuous access to the quota should be ensured for all Community importers and the rate of duty for the tariff quota should be applied consistently to all imports until the quota is exhausted; whereas, in the light of these principles, arrangements for the utilization of the tariff quota based on an allocation among Member States would seem to be consistent with the Community nature of the quota; whereas, to correspond as closely as possible to the actual trend in the market in the product in question, allocation of the quota should be in proportion to the requirements of the Member States as calculated by reference to statistics of imports from third countries during a representative reference period and to the economic outlook for the quota period in question;

Whereas, however, since the quota is an autonomous Community tariff quota intended to cover import needs arising in the Community, the quota volume may, for experimental purposes, be allocated on the basis of the estimated temporary import needs from third countries of each of the Member States; whereas these arrangements for allocation will also ensure the uniform application of the Common Customs Tariff;

Whereas, to take account of possible import trends for the product concerned, the quota volume should be divided into two tranches, the first being allocated between certain Member States and the second held as a reserve to meet subsequent requirements of Member States which have used up their initial shares and any additional requirements which might arise in the other Member States; whereas, to give importers of the Member States some degree of certainty, the first tranche of the tariff quota should be fixed at a relatively high level, which in this case could be 2 900 tonnes;

Whereas the initial shares of the Member States may be used up at different rates; whereas, to avoid disruption of supplies on this account, any Member State which has almost entirely used up its initial share should draw an additional share from the reserve; whereas, each time its additional share is almost entirely used up, a Member State should draw a further share, and so on as many times as the reserve allows; whereas the initial and additional shares should be valid until the end of the quota period; whereas this form of administration requires close collaboration between the Member States and the Commission, which latter must be in a position to keep account of the extent to which the quota has been used up and to inform the Member States accordingly;

Whereas, if at a given date in the quota period a considerable quantity of a Member State's initial share remains unused, it is essential that that Member State should return a significant proportion to the reserve, in order to prevent a part of the Community quota remaining unused in one Member State while 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 within and jointly represented

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

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION :

Article 1

1. From 1 January until 30 June 1982 the Common Customs Tariff duty for fish of the species Sardinops sagax or ocellata, of a length of 20 cm or more if whole or 15 cm or more if headless, intended for processing, falling within subheading ex 03.01 B I q) (a) (b) shall be suspended at a level of 9 % within the framework of a Community tariff quota of 3 000 tonnes.

2. Within the limits of the tariff quota, Greece shall apply customs duties calculated in accordance with the relevant provisions in the 1979 Act of Accession.

Article 2

1. A first tranche of 2 900 tonnes of this Community tariff quota shall be allocated among certain Member States ; the shares, which subject to Article 6 shall be valid until 30 June 1982, shall be as follows :

	tonnes
Benelux	356
Denmark	5
The Federal Republic of Germany	2 534
France	5

2. The second tranche of 100 tonnes shall constitute the reserve.

Article 3

If requirements arise in Greece, Ireland, Italy or the United Kingdom for products of this kind, these Member States shall draw an adequate share from the reserve, in so far as the amounts available in this reserve so permit.

Article 4

1. If a Member State has used 90 % or more of its initial share as fixed in Article 2 (1), or of that share minus any portion returned to the reserve pursuant to Article 6, it shall forthwith, by notifying the Commission, draw a second share, to the extent that the reserve so permits, equal to 10 % of its initial share rounded up as necessary to the next whole number.

2. If a Member State, after exhausting its initial share, has used 90 % or more of the second share drawn by it, that Member State shall forthwith, in the manner and to the extent provided in paragraph 1, draw, a third share equal to 5 % of its initial share rounded up as necessary to the next whole number.

3. If a Member State, after exhausting its second share, has used 90 % or more of the third share drawn by it, that Member State shall forthwith, in the manner and to the extent provided in paragraph 1, draw a fourth share equal to the third.

This process shall apply until the reserve is used up.

4. By way of derogation from paragraphs 1 to 3, a Member State may draw shares lower than those specified in those paragraphs if there are grounds for believing that those specified may not be used in full. Any Member State applying this paragraph shall inform the Commission of its grounds for so doing.

Article 5

Additional shares drawn pursuant to Article 4 shall be valid until 30 June 1982.

(a) The suspension shall apply to fish intended to undergo any operation unless they are intended to undergo exclusively one or more of the following operations :

— cleaning, gutting, taling, heading ;
— cutting (excluding filleting or cutting of frozen blocks) ;
— sampling, sorting ;
— labelling ;
— packing ;
— chilling ;
— freezing ;
— deep freezing ;
— thawing, separation.

The suspension is not allowed for products intended, in additon, to undergo treatment (or operations) qualifying for suspension where such treatment (or operations) is (are) carried out at retail or catering level.

The suspension of customs duties shall apply only to fish intended for human consumption.

(b) Checks on their use for this special purpose shall be carried out pursuant to the relevant Community provisions.

Article 6

Member States shall, not later than 15 May 1982, return to the reserve the unused portion of their initial share which, on 1 May 1982, is in excess of 20 % of the initial volume. They may return a greater portion if there are grounds for believing that it may not be used in full.

Member States shall, not later than 15 May 1982, notify the Commission of the total quantities of the products in question imported up to 1 May 1982 and charged against the Community quota and of any portion of their initial shares returned to the reserve.

Article 7

The Commission shall keep an account of the shares opened by the Member States pursuant to Articles 2, 3 and 4 and shall, as soon as the notifications reach it, inform each State of the extent to which the reserve has been used up.

It shall, not later than 5 May 1982, inform the Member States of the amounts still in reserve following any return of shares pursuant to Article 6.

It shall ensure that the drawing which exhausts the reserve does not exceed the balance available, and to this end shall notify the amount of that balance to the Member State making the last drawing.

Article 8

1. Member States shall take all appropriate measures to ensure that additional shares drawn pursuant to Article 4 are opened in such a way that imports may be charged without interruption against their aggregate shares of the Community tariff quota.

2. Member States shall take all appropriate measures to ensure that the products listed in Article 1 (1) benefiting from the tariff quota in question are indeed intended for processing.

Checks to ensure that the products are used for this particular purpose shall be carried out pursuant to the relevant Community provisions.

3. Member States shall ensure that importers of the product in question, established in their territory, have free access to the shares allotted to them.

4. Member States shall charge imports of the product in question against their shares as the product is entered with the customs authorities for free circulation.

5. The extent to which Member States have used up their shares shall be determined on the basis of imports charged against them under the conditions set out in paragraph 4.

Article 9

At the Commission's request, the Member States shall inform it of imports actually charged against their shares.

Article 10

The Member States and the Commission shall cooperate closely to ensure that this Regulation is complied with.

Article 11

This Regulation shall enter into force on 1 January 1982.

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

Done at Brussels, 15 December 1981.

For the Council

The President

D. HOWELL