COUNCIL REGULATION (EC) No 3385/93

of 6 December 1993

opening and providing for the administration of a Community tariff quota for fresh or dried hazelnuts, shelled or not, originating in Turkey (1994)

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community, and in particular Article 113 thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the Commission,

Whereas the Annex to Council Regulation (EEC) No 4115/86 of 22 December 1986 on imports into the Community of agricultural products originating in Turkey [1], provides that fresh or dried hazelnuts, shelled or not and originating in Turkey shall be admitted on importation into the Community at zero duty within the limits of a Community tariff quota of 25 000 tonnes; whereas the Community tariff quota concerned should therefore be opened for 1994;

Whereas equal and continuous access to the quota should be ensured for all Community importers and the rate laid down for the quota should be applied consistently to all imports of the products in question into the Member States until the quota is exhausted;

Whereas the decision on the opening, in implementation of its international obligations, of a tariff quota should be taken by the Community; whereas, to ensure the efficiency of a common administration of this quota, there is, however, no obstacle to authorizing the Member States to draw from the quota-volume the necessary quantities corresponding to actual imports; whereas this method of administration requires close cooperation between the Member States and the Commission and the latter must in particular be able to monitor the rate at which the quota is used up and inform the Member States accordingly;

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 operation concerning the administration of the quota may be carried out by any one of its members,

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

Article 1

1. From 1 January to 31 December 1994 the customs duty applicable to imports into the Community of the following products originating in Turkey shall be suspended at the level indicated and within the limits of a Community tariff quota as shown below:

Order No	CN code	Description	Amount of quota (in tonnes)	Rate of quota duty (%)
09.0201	0802 21 00 0802 22 00	Fresh or dried hazelnuts, shelled or not	25 000	0

2. Imports of the products in question may not be charged against this tariff quota if they already qualify for the same customs duties under other preferential tariff arrangements.

Article 2

The tariff quota referred to in Article 1 shall be administered by the Commission, which may take any appropriate measure with a view to ensuring the efficient administration thereof.

Article 3

If an importer presents in a Member State a declaration of entry into free circulation including a request for preferential benefit for a product covered by this Regulation and if this declaration is accepted by the customs authorities, the Member State concerned shall draw, from the tariff quota, by means of notification to the Commission, a quantity corresponding to these needs.

The requests for drawing, with the indication of the date of acceptance of the said declaration, must be communicated to the Commission without delay.

The drawings are granted by the Commission on the basis of the date of acceptance of the declaration of entry into free circulation by the customs authorities of the Member State concerned, to the extent that the available balance so permits.

[1] OJ No L 380, 31. 12. 1986, p. 16.

If a Member State does not use the quantities drawn, it shall return them as soon as possible to the tariff quota.

If the quantities requested are greater than the available balance of the quota, allocation shall be made on a pro rata basis with respect to the requests. Member States shall be informed by the Commission of the drawings made.

Article 4

Each Member State shall ensure that importers of the product concerned have equal and continuous access to the quota for such time that the residual balance of the quota volume permits.

Article 5

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

Article 6

This Regulation shall enter into force on 1 January 1994.

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

Done at Brussels, 6 December 1993.

For the Council

The President

W. CLAES