COUNCIL REGULATION (EC) No 789/96

of 22 April 1996

opening and providing for the administration of autonomous Community tariff quotas for certain fishery products (1996)

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

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

Having regard to the proposal from the Commission,

Whereas Community supplies of certain species of fish or fish fillets currently depend on imports from third countries; whereas it is in the Community's interest to suspend in part or in whole the customs duties for the products in question, within Community tariff quotas of an appropriate volume; whereas, in order not to jeopardize the development prospects of this production in the Community and to ensure an adequate supply to satisfy user industries, those quotas should be opened for the period from 1 April until 31 December 1996, applying customs duties varied accordingly to sensitivity of the different products on the Community market;

Whereas it is necessary, in particular, to ensure for all Community importers equal and uninterrupted access to the said quotas and to ensure the uninterrupted application of the rates laid down for the quotas to all imports of the products concerned into all Member States until the quotas have been used up;

Whereas the decision for the opening of autonomous tariff quotas should be taken by the Community; whereas, to ensure the efficiency of a common administration of these quotas, there is no reasonable obstacle to authorizing the Member States to draw from the quota-volumes the necessary quantities corresponding to actual imports; whereas, however, 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 quotas are used up and inform the Member States accordingly,

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

Article 1

1. From 1 April until 31 December 1996, the customs duties applicable on importation to products listed in the Annex shall be suspended at the levels and within the limits of the Community tariff quota indicated for each product.

2. Imports of the products in question shall not be covered by the quotas referred to in paragraph 1 unless the free-at-frontier price, which is determined by the Member States in accordance with Article 22 of Council Regulation (EEC) No 3759/92 of 17 December 1992 on the common organization of the market in fishery and aquaculture products [1], is at least equal to the reference price fixed, or to be fixed, by the Community for the products or categories of products concerned.

Article 2

The tariff quotas referred to in Article 1 shall be managed by the Commission, which may take all appropriate administrative measures in order to ensure effective administration thereof.

Article 3

If an importer presents in a Member State an entry for release for free circulation, including a request for preferential benefit for a product covered by this Regulation and if this entry for release is accepted by the customs authorities, the Member State concerned shall inform the Commission and draw an amount corresponding to its requirements from the corresponding quota amount.

The drawing request, with indication of the date of acceptance of the said entries, must be transmitted to the Commission without delay.

The drawings shall be granted by the Commission by reference to the date of acceptance of the entries for release for free circulation by the customs authorities of the Member State concerned to the extent that the available balance so permits.

[1] OJ No L 388, 31. 12. 1992, p. 1. Regulation as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 3318/94 (OJ No L 350, 31. 12. 1994, p. 15).

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

If the quantities requested are greater than the available balance of the quota amount, 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 products concerned have equal and uninterrupted access to the quotas for such time as the residual balance of the quota volumes so permits.

Article 5

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

Article 6

This Regulation shall enter into force on the seventh day following its publication in the *Official Journal of the European Communities.*

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

Done at Brussels, 22 April 1996.

For the Council

The President

W. LUCHETTI

ANNEX

Series No	CN code	Taric subdivision	Description of goods	Amount of quota (in tonnes)	Quota duty (%)
09.2753	ex 0302 50 10 ex 0302 50 90 ex 0302 69 35 ex 0303 60 11 ex 0303 60 19 ex 0303 60 90 ex 0303 79 41	20 11 91 10 10 10 10 10	Cod *(Gadus morhua, Gadus ogac, Gadus macrocephalus)*, and fish of the genus *Boreogadus saida*, excluding, livers, roes, presented fresh, chilled or frozen, for processing (a) (b)	50 000	4,5
09.2765	0305 62 00 0305 69 10		Cod *(Gadus morhua, Gadus ogac, Gadus macrocephalus)*, and fish of the species *Boreogadus saida*, salted or in brine, but not dried or smoked	9 000	4
09.2773	ex 0306 13 10 ex 0306 23 10	10 11 91	Shrimps and prawns of the species *Pandalus borealis*, in shell, fresh, chilled or frozen, for processing (a) (b)	6 000	0
09.2758	ex 0302 70 00	20	Cod livers *(Gadus morhua, Gadus ogac, Gadus macrocephalus)*, and fish liver of the genus *Boreogadus saida*, for processing (a) (b)	400	0
09.2779	ex 0304 90 05	10	Surimi, frozen, for processing (a) (b)	3 500	6
09.2780	ex 0304 20 91 ex 0304 90 97	10 60	Blue grenadier fillets *(Macrouronus novaezelandiae)*, and other frozen meat of blue grenadier for processing (a) (b)	3 500	6
09.2757	ex 0302 62 00 ex 0303 72 00	10 10	Haddock *(Melanogrammus aeglefinus)* fresh, chilled or frozen for processing (a) (b)	250	4
09.2785	ex 0307 49 59 ex 0307 99 11	10 10	Tubes of squid *(Omnastrephes spp., Nototodarus spp., Sepioteuthis spp.)* and *Illex spp.*, frozen, for processing (a) (b)	3 500	4
09.2786	ex 0307 49 59 ex 0307 99 11	20 20	Squid *(Omnastrephes spp., Nototodarus spp., Sepioteuthis spp.)* and *Illex spp.*, frozen whole, tentacles and fins, for processing (a) (b)	500	4
09.2787	ex 0302 22 00 ex 0303 32 00	20 20	Plaice *(Pleuronectes platessa)*, fresh, chilled or frozen, for processing (a) (b)	2 500	4

(a) Control of the use for this special purpose shall be carried out pursuant to the relevant Community provisions.

(b) This quota is available for products intended to undergo any operation, unless it is solely for one or more of the following operations:

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

However the quota is not available for products intended, in addition to undergo treatment (or operations) which give quota entitlement, where such treatment (or operations) is (are) carried out at retail or catering level. The reduction of customs duties shall apply only to fish intended for human consumption.