COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

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94/0290 (ACC)

Proposal for a

COUNCIL REGULATION (EC)

on the suspension of the import levy on sheepmeat and goatmeat sector products

(presented by the Commission)

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Explanatory memorandum

In the sheepmeat and goatmeat sector, voluntary restraint agreements exist with Romania and Iceland and equivalent unilateral arrangements exist with those countries with which no voluntary restraint agreement (regulation (EEC) No 3643/85) has been concluded. Regulation (EEC) No 3842/92 suspended collection of the levy on imports originating in the above-mentioned countries until 31 December 1994.

A voluntary restraint agreement was concluded with the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia in 1981, but certain details of the management of the import arrangements laid down were suspended and replaced by Regulation (EEC) No 3125/92 which establishes the arrangements applicable to Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, Slovenia, Montenegro, Serbia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

Pending the implementation for this sector of the access commitments in the GATT Uruguay Round Agreement on 1.7.95 it is necessary to provide for interim access arrangements for sheepmeat and goatmeat.

Negotiations with Argentina, Australia, Bulgaria, Hungary, the Czech Republic, New Zealand, Poland, the Slovak Republic and Uruguay have led to the extension of the adjustments to the voluntary restraint agreements until 30 June 1995 and consequently the collection of the levy applicable to those countries is suspended until that date.

This draft Regulation extends that suspension, subject to certain quantitative limits, to the other supplier countries.

<u>Financial impact</u> : This measure has no financial impact on the Community budget

Proposal for a COUNCIL REGULATION (EC) No/.. of ... on the suspension of the import levy on sheepmeat and goatmeat sector products

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community, and in particular Article 228(2) and the first subparagraph of 228(3), in conjunction with Article 113;

Having regard to the proposal from the Commission;

Whereas the Community has voluntary restraint agreements with Romania and Iceland and equivalent unilateral arrangements established by Council Regulation (EEC) No 3643/85 of 19 December 1985 concerning the import arrangements applicable to certain third countries in the sheepmeat and goatmeat sector as from $1986^{(1)}$;

Whereas, pursuant to Council Regulation (EEC) No 3609/93 of 17 December 1993 suspending the import levy on products of the sheepmeat and goatmeat sector ⁽²⁾ the levy on the import of live sheep and goats and sheepmeat and goatmeat from the abovementioned countries in particular has been suspended until 31 December 1994;

Whereas a voluntary restraint agreement was concluded with the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia in 1981; whereas, while the substance of the Agreement remained unchanged, certain details of the management of the import arrangements laid down were suspended and replaced by Council Regulation (EEC) No 3125/92 of 26 October 1992 on the arrangements applicable to the importation into the Community of sheepmeat and goatmeat products originating in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, Slovenia, Montenegro, Serbia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia⁽³⁾;

Whereas it is necessary to provide for interim arrangements for trade in the sheepmeat and goatmeat sectors pending the implementation for this sector of the access in the Uruguay Round of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade on 1.7.1995;

Whereas negotiations with Argentina, Australia, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Hungary, New Zealand, Poland, the Slovak Republic and Uruguay have led to the extension of the adjustments to the voluntary restraint agreements until 30 June 1995 and consequently the collection of the levy applicable to those countries is suspended until that date;

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⁽¹⁾ OJ L 348, 24.12.1985, p. 2 Regulation as last amended by regulation (EEC) No 3890/92 (OJ L391, 31.12.1992, p. 51).

⁽²⁾ OJ L 328, 29.12.1993, p.4.

⁽³⁾ OJ L 313, 30.10.1992, p. 3

Whereas it seems appropriate to extend the above suspension, subject to certain quantitative limits, to all supplier countries;

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION :

Article 1

Notwithstanding the voluntary restraint agreements concluded with Iceland, the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and Romania and notwithstanding Regulation (EEC) No 3643/85, the collection of the levy on imports of sheepmeat and goatmeat sector products falling within CN codes 0204, 0104 1030, 0104 1080 and 0104 2090 from Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, Iceland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Romania, Slovenia and the countries referred to in the said Regulation shall be suspended until 30 June 1995.

For the countries referred to in the abovementioned agreements, the quantity for the first six months of 1995 will be 50% of the figure agreed for the whole of the year 1995, but it may be exceeded by up to 20%, which will be taken into account during the subsequent period.

Article 2

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

It shall apply from 1 January 1995.

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

Done at Brussels, ... December 1994.

For the Council

The President

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