

# COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

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Brussels, 21 January 1976.

PROPOSAL FOR A DECISION (EEC) BY THE COUNCIL AUTHORISING  
IRELAND TO TAKE PROTECTIVE MEASURES IN RESPECT OF FOOTWEAR  
WITH UPPERS OF LEATHER IMPORTED FROM FINLAND, ICELAND, AUSTRIA,  
NORWAY, SWITZERLAND, SWEDEN.

(submitted to the Council by the Commission)



EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUMSAFEGUARD MEASURES REGARDING IMPORTS OF SHOES INTO IRELAND FROM THE  
EFTA COUNTRIES

On 1 December 1975 Ireland applied to the Commission for authorisation to take protective measures under Article 135 of the Act concerning the Conditions of Accession and Adjustments to the Treaties of 22 January 1972 in respect of imports of footwear with uppers of leather (CCT heading 64.02A). On 22 December 1975 the Commission, by Decision No \_\_\_\_\_ authorised Ireland to apply as from 1 January 1976 the following rates of duty on this product, instead of the lower rates foreseen by the Act of Accession: imports from the United Kingdom - 9%; imports from the other Member States - 18.5%; full rate - 23.5%.

According to the relevant provisions of the Agreements between the Community and Switzerland, Austria, Iceland and Sweden signed on 22 July 1972, Norway, signed on 16 May 1973, and Finland, signed on 5 October 1973, duties on imports of this product into Ireland originating in these six countries should be reduced from 21.6% to 10.8% as from 1 January 1976. Thus, if no corresponding corrective action were taken Ireland would be granting these countries a considerable preference over the other Member States except the United Kingdom as regards the conditions for imports of footwear with uppers of leather.

Since the Agreements between the Community and these six countries provided for a timetable of tariff reductions on this product which is identical to the timetable of tariff reductions in the Act of Accession, the Commission proposes that a safeguard measure should be applied in the context of each of these six Agreements, so that imports of shoes from these six countries are subject to the same duty as those from the other Member States except the United Kingdom, from 1 January 1976 to 30 June 1976. This duty would be 18.5%. This is the purpose of the six draft Decisions now proposed by the Commission to the Council.

As regards the Agreement between the Community and Portugal, Ireland obtained by virtue of Article 3 of Protocol No 1 a slower timetable for tariff disarmament on shoes. In fact, according to the provisions of this article the reduction to be made on the basic duty of 54% is only 25% as on 1 January 1976, resulting in a duty of 40.5%<sup>1</sup>. Since this provision would result in granting Portugal less favourable treatment than other third countries the Irish customs authorities are currently applying to imports of shoes originating in Portugal the common customs tariff for imports from third countries. Consequently the duty effectively applied by Ireland as regards Portugal is 23.5% as from 1.1.76 (instead of 40.5%) as laid down by the EEC-Portugal Agreement). In these conditions there is no need to invoke a safeguard clause as regards Portugal.

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<sup>1</sup>The Commission has pointed out this anomaly to the Portuguese authorities who consider that they have no interest in the modification of Article 3 because they have no trade with Ireland in the products in question.

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PROPOSAL FOR A DECISION (EEC) No. ... /76 BY THE COUNCIL AUTHORISING  
IRELAND TO TAKE PROTECTIVE MEASURES IN RESPECT OF FOOTWEAR WITH UPPERS  
OF LEATHER IMPORTED FROM FINLAND

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THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community;

Having regard to Regulation (EEC) 3288/73<sup>1</sup> of the Council of 3 December 1973 concerning safeguard measures provided for in the Agreement between the European Economic Community and the Republic of Finland in particular Article 4<sup>1</sup>;

Having regard to the proposal of the Commission;

Whereas the Irish footwear industry is currently encountering serious disturbances, involving notably a reduction in employment from 5,000 persons in 1973 to approximately 3,500 in October 1975, with a further loss of 310 jobs forecast as imminent; whereas the Irish footwear sector is mainly situated in the regions where it often represents the main if not the only local source of employment;

Whereas production declined by 30% in the first half of 1975 compared with the same period of 1974 and declined even further in the third quarter of 1975; whereas exports for the first three-quarters of 1975 dropped by 20% compared with 1974; whereas import penetration has risen from 34.1% in 1973 to 41.8% in 1974, to 45.4% in January-March 1975, 52.1% in April-June 1975 and 51.4% in July-September 1975;

Whereas these developments are liable to bring about a serious deterioration of the economic situation of this region of the Community;

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<sup>1</sup>O.J. Nr L 338 of 7 December 1973

Whereas it is therefore necessary to maintain temporarily an adequate level of tariff protection in Ireland for this industry;

Whereas Ireland is applying as from 1 January 1976 until 30 June 1976, following authorisation by the Commission in its Decision of 22 December 1975, the following rates of duty:

United Kingdom	9.0%
other Member States	18.5%
full rate	23.5%

Whereas it is appropriate to take similar measures as regards imports of this product from Finland in accordance with Article 26 of the Agreement between the European Economic Community and Finland of 5 October 1973<sup>(2)</sup> which would result in a tariff reduction lower than that foreseen by Article 3 paragraph 2 of this Agreement, according to which the duty applied by Ireland to imports of this product from Finland should otherwise be reduced to 10.8% or £0.09 per pair whichever is the greater;

Whereas consultations have been held with Finland in accordance with Article 27 of the EEC-Finland Agreement;

HAS DECIDED :

Article 1

Ireland is authorised to apply until 30 June 1976 a rate of duty of 18.5% in respect of imports of footwear with uppers of leather under common customs heading 64.02<sup>A</sup> originating in Finland.

Article 2

This decision is addressed to Ireland.

<sup>2</sup>O.J. Nr L 328 of 28 November 1973

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PROPOSAL FOR A DECISION (EEC) No.     /76 BY THE COUNCIL AUTHORISING  
IRELAND TO TAKE PROTECTIVE MEASURES IN RESPECT OF FOOTWEAR WITH UPPERS  
OF LEATHER IMPORTED FROM ICELAND

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THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community;

Having regard to Regulation (EEC) 2843/72<sup>1</sup> of the Council of 19 December 1972 concerning safeguard measures provided for in the Agreement between the European Economic Community and the Republic of Iceland, in particular Article 4<sup>1</sup>;

Having regard to the proposal of the Commission;

Whereas the Irish footwear industry is currently encountering serious disturbances, involving notably a reduction in employment from 5,000 persons in 1973 to approximately 3,500 in October 1975, with a further loss of 310 jobs forecast as imminent; whereas the Irish footwear sector is mainly situated in the regions where it often represents the main if not the only local source of employment;

Whereas production declined by 30% in the first half of 1975 compared with the same period of 1974 and declined even further in the third quarter of 1975; whereas exports for the first three-quarters of 1975 dropped by 20% compared with 1974; whereas import penetration has risen from 34.1% in 1973 to 41.8% in 1974, to 45.4% in January-March 1975, 52.1% in April-June 1975 and 51.4% in July-September 1975;

Whereas these developments are liable to bring about a serious deterioration of the economic situation of this region of the Community;

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<sup>1</sup>O.J. Nr L 301 of 31 December 1972

Whereas it is therefore necessary to maintain temporarily an adequate level of tariff protection in Ireland for this industry;

Whereas Ireland is applying as from 1 January 1976 until 30 June 1976, following authorisation by the Commission in its Decision of 22 December 1975, the following rates of duty:

United Kingdom	9.0%
other Member States	18.5%
full rate	23.5%

Whereas it is appropriate to take similar measures as regards imports of this product from Iceland in accordance with Article 27 of the Agreement between the European Economic Community and Iceland of 22 July 1972<sup>2</sup>, which would result in a tariff reduction lower than that foreseen by Article 3 paragraph 2 of this Agreement, according to which the duty applied by Ireland to imports of this product from Iceland should otherwise be reduced to 10.8% or £0.09 per pair whichever is the greater;

Whereas consultations have been held with Iceland in accordance with Article 28 of the EEC-Iceland Agreement;

HAS DECIDED :

#### Article 1

Ireland is authorised to apply until 30 June 1976 a rate of duty of 18.5% in respect of imports of footwear with uppers of leather under common customs heading 64.02~~4~~ originating in Iceland.

#### Article 2

This decision is addressed to Ireland.

<sup>2</sup>O.J. Nr L 301 of 31 December 1972



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PROPOSAL FOR A DECISION (EEC) No. /76 BY THE COUNCIL AUTHORISING  
IRELAND TO TAKE PROTECTIVE MEASURES IN RESPECT OF FOOTWEAR WITH UPPERS  
OF LEATHER IMPORTED FROM AUSTRIA

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THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community;

Having regard to Regulation (EEC) 2837/72 of the Council of 19 December 1972 concerning safeguard measures provided for in the Agreement between the European Economic Community and the Republic Austria, in particular Article 4<sup>1</sup>;

Having regard to the proposal of the Commission;

Whereas the Irish footwear industry is currently encountering serious disturbances, involving notably a reduction in employment from 5,000 persons in 1973 to approximately 3,500 in October 1975, with a further loss of 310 jobs forecast as imminent; whereas the Irish footwear sector is mainly situated in the regions where it often represents the main if not the only local source of employment;

Whereas production declined by 30% in the first half of 1975 compared with the same period of 1974 and declined even further in the third quarter of 1975; whereas exports for the first three-quarters of 1975 dropped by 20% compared with 1974; whereas import penetration has risen from 34.1% in 1973 to 41.8% in 1974, to 45.4% in January-March 1975, 52.1% in April-June 1975 and 51.4% in July-September 1975;

Whereas these developments are liable to bring about a serious deterioration of the economic situation of this region of the Community;

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<sup>1</sup> O.J. Nr L 300 of 31 December 1972

Whereas it is therefore necessary to maintain temporarily an adequate level of tariff protection in Ireland for this industry;

Whereas Ireland is applying as from 1 January 1976 until 30 June 1976, following authorisation by the Commission in its Decision of 22 December 1975, the following rates of duty:

United Kingdom	9.0%
other Member States	18.5%
full rate	23.5%

Whereas it is appropriate to take similar measures as regards imports of this product from Austria in accordance with Article 26 of the Agreement between the European Economic Community and Austria of 22 July 1972<sup>2</sup>, which would result in a tariff reduction lower than that foreseen by Article 3 paragraph 2 of this Agreement, according to which the duty applied by Ireland to imports of this product from Austria should otherwise be reduced to 10.8% or £0.09 per pair whichever is the greater;

Whereas consultations have been held with Austria in accordance with Article 27 of the EEC-Austria Agreement;

HAS DECIDED :

Article 1

Ireland is authorised to apply until 30 June 1976 a rate of duty of 18.5% in respect of imports of footwear with uppers of leather under common customs heading 64.02<sup>1</sup> originating in Austria.

Article 2

This decision is addressed to Ireland.

<sup>2</sup>O.J. Nr L 300 of 31 December 1972

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PROPOSAL FOR A DECISION (EEC) No. /76 BY THE COUNCIL AUTHORISING  
IRELAND TO TAKE PROTECTIVE MEASURES IN RESPECT OF FOOTWEAR WITH UPPERS  
OF LEATHER IMPORTED FROM NORWAY

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THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community;

Having regard to Regulation (EEC) 1692/73 of the Council of 25 June 1973 concerning safeguard measures provided for in the Agreement between the European Economic Community and the Kingdom of Norway, in particular Article 4<sup>1</sup>;

Having regard to the proposal of the Commission;

Whereas the Irish footwear industry is currently encountering serious disturbances, involving notably a reduction in employment from 5,000 persons in 1973 to approximately 3,500 in October 1975, with a further loss of 310 jobs forecast as imminent; whereas the Irish footwear sector is mainly situated in the regions where it often represents the main if not the only local source of employment;

Whereas production declined by 30% in the first half of 1975 compared with the same period of 1974 and declined even further in the third quarter of 1975; whereas exports for the first three-quarters of 1975 dropped by 20% compared with 1974; whereas import penetration has risen from 34.1% in 1973 to 41.8% in 1974, to 45.4% in January-March 1975, 52.1% in April-June 1975 and 51.4% in July-September 1975;

Whereas these developments are liable to bring about a serious deterioration of the economic situation of this region of the Community;

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<sup>1</sup>O.J. Nr L 171 of 27 June 1973

Whereas it is therefore necessary to maintain temporarily an adequate level of tariff protection in Ireland for this industry;

Whereas Ireland is applying as from 1 January 1976 until 30 June 1976, following authorisation by the Commission in its Decision of 22 December 1975, the following rates of duty:

United Kingdom	9.0%
other Member States	18.5%
full rate	23.5%

Whereas it is appropriate to take similar measures as regards imports of this product from Norway in accordance with Article 26 of the Agreement between the European Economic Community and Norway of 25 June 1973<sup>2</sup>, which would result in a tariff reduction lower than that foreseen by Article 3 paragraph 2 of this Agreement, according to which the duty applied by Ireland to imports of this product from Norway should otherwise be reduced to 10.8% or £0.09 per pair whichever is the greater;

Whereas consultations have been held with Norway in accordance with Article 27 of the EEC-Norway Agreement;

HAS DECIDED :

#### Article 1

Ireland is authorised to apply until 30 June 1976 a rate of duty of 18.5% in respect of imports of footwear with uppers of leather under common customs heading 64.02~~4~~ originating in Norway.

#### Article 2

This decision is addressed to Ireland.

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<sup>2</sup>O.J. Nr L 171 of 27 June 1973

PROPOSAL FOR A DECISION (EEC) No. /76 BY THE COUNCIL AUTHORISING  
IRELAND TO TAKE PROTECTIVE MEASURES IN RESPECT OF FOOTWEAR WITH UPPERS  
OF LEATHER IMPORTED FROM SWITZERLAND

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THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community;

Having regard to Regulation (EEC) 2841/72 of the Council of 19 December 1972 concerning safeguard measures provided for in the Agreement between the European Economic Community and the Swiss Confederation, in particular Article 4<sup>1</sup>;

Having regard to the proposal of the Commission;

Whereas the Irish footwear industry is currently encountering serious disturbances, involving notably a reduction in employment from 5,000 persons in 1973 to approximately 3,500 in October 1975, with a further loss of 310 jobs forecast as imminent; whereas the Irish footwear sector is mainly situated in the regions where it often represents the main if not the only local source of employment;

Whereas production declined by 30% in the first half of 1975 compared with the same period of 1974 and declined even further in the third quarter of 1975; whereas exports for the first three-quarters of 1975 dropped by 20% compared with 1974; whereas import penetration has risen from 34.1% in 1973 to 41.8% in 1974, to 45.4% in January-March 1975, 52.1% in April-June 1975 and 51.4% in July-September 1975;

Whereas these developments are liable to bring about a serious deterioration of the economic situation of this region of the Community;

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<sup>1</sup>O.J. Nr L 300 of 31 December 1972

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Whereas it is therefore necessary to maintain temporarily an adequate level of tariff protection in Ireland for this industry;

Whereas Ireland is applying as from 1 January 1976 until 30 June 1976, following authorisation by the Commission in its Decision of 22 December 1975, the following rates of duty:

United Kingdom	9.0%
other Member States	18.5%
full rate	23.5%

Whereas it is appropriate to take similar measures as regards imports of this product from <sup>Switzerland</sup> in accordance with Article 26 of the Agreement between the European Economic Community and <sup>Switzerland</sup> of 22 July 1972<sup>2</sup>, which would result in a tariff reduction lower than that foreseen by Article 3 paragraph 2 of this Agreement, according to which the duty applied by Ireland to imports of this product from <sup>Switzerland</sup> should otherwise be reduced to 10.8% or £0.09 per pair whichever is the greater;

Whereas consultations have been held with <sup>Switzerland</sup> in accordance with Article 27 of the EEC-<sup>Switzerland</sup> Agreement;

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

#### Article 1

Ireland is authorised to apply until 30 June 1976 a rate of duty of 18.5% in respect of imports of footwear with uppers of leather under common customs heading 64.02<sup>4</sup> originating in Switzerland.

#### Article 2

This decision is addressed to Ireland.

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<sup>2</sup>O.J. Nr L 300 of 31 December 1972

PROPOSAL FOR A DECISION (EEC) No. /76 BY THE COUNCIL AUTHORISING IRELAND TO TAKE PROTECTIVE MEASURES IN RESPECT OF FOOTWEAR WITH UPPERS OF LEATHER IMPORTED FROM SWEDEN

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community;

Having regard to Regulation (EEC) 2839/72 of the Council of 19 December 1972 concerning safeguard measures provided for in the Agreement between the European Economic Community and the Kingdom of Sweden, in particular Article 4<sup>1</sup>;

Having regard to the proposal of the Commission;

Whereas the Irish footwear industry is currently encountering serious disturbances, involving notably a reduction in employment from 5,000 persons in 1973 to approximately 3,500 in October 1975, with a further loss of 310 jobs forecast as imminent; whereas the Irish footwear sector is mainly situated in the regions where it often represents the main if not the only local source of employment;

Whereas production declined by 30% in the first half of 1975 compared with the same period of 1974 and declined even further in the third quarter of 1975; whereas exports for the first three-quarters of 1975 dropped by 20% compared with 1974; whereas import penetration has risen from 34.1% in 1973 to 41.8% in 1974, to 45.4% in January-March 1975, 52.1% in April-June 1975 and 51.4% in July-September 1975;

Whereas these developments are liable to bring about a serious deterioration of the economic situation of this region of the Community;

<sup>1</sup>O.J. Nr L 300 of 31 December 1972.

Whereas it is therefore necessary to maintain temporarily an adequate level of tariff protection in Ireland for this industry;

Whereas Ireland is applying as from 1 January 1976 until 30 June 1976, following authorisation by the Commission in its Decision of 22 December 1975, the following rates of duty:

United Kingdom	9.0%
other Member States	18.5%
full rate	23.5%

Whereas it is appropriate to take similar measures as regards imports of this product from Sweden in accordance with Article 26 of the Agreement between the European Economic Community and Sweden of 22 July 1972<sup>2</sup>, which would result in a tariff reduction lower than that foreseen by Article 3 paragraph 2 of this Agreement, according to which the duty applied by Ireland to imports of this product from Sweden should otherwise be reduced to 10.8% or £0.09 per pair whichever is the greater;

Whereas consultations have been held with Sweden in accordance with Article 27 of the EEC-Sweden Agreement;

HAS DECIDED : . . . . .

Article 1

Ireland is authorised to apply until 30 June 1976 a rate of duty of 18.5% in respect of imports of footwear with uppers of leather under common customs heading 64.02~~A~~ originating in Sweden.

Article 2

This decision is addressed to Ireland.

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<sup>2</sup>O.J. Nr L 300 of 31 December 1972