

COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

COM(81) 204 final

Brussels, 29 April 1981

Proposal for a
COUNCIL REGULATION (EEC)

opening, allocating and providing for the administration of a Community tariff quota for rum, arrak and tafia falling within subheading 22.09 C I of the Common Customs Tariff and originating in the overseas countries and territories associated with the European Economic Community (1981/1982)

(submitted to the Council by the Commission)

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EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

1. Annex IX of Decision 80/1186 of the Council of 16 December 1980 provides that rum, arrack and tafia falling within subheading 22.09 C I of the Common Customs Tariff and originating in the overseas countries associated with the EEC shall be imported free of customs duty into the Community within the limits of a tariff quota, the annual period of application of which shall be from 1 July to 30 June of the following year.

The volume of the tariff quota is to be determined by reference to an annual basic amount, calculated in hectolitres of pure alcohol, equal to the amount of the imports effected during the best of the latest years for which statistics are available. This basic amount is to be subject to a rate of growth of 18 %.

2. The imports of the products in question during the last three years were as follows :

	(in hl of pure alcohol)		
	<u>1978</u>	<u>1979</u>	<u>1980</u>
Benelux	-	19	10
Denmark	-	32	51
Germany	70,285	59,723	55,625
Greece	-	-	-
France	-	-	-
Ireland	-	-	100
Italy	-	-	-
United Kingdom	64	22	2
	<hr/> 70,349	<hr/> 59,796	<hr/> 55,788

It follows from these figures that the quantities relative to the year 1978 should be taken as determining the annual basic amount. Having regard to the present overall position concerning the products in question the rate of growth applicable to the basic amount may be taken as 18 %.

In these circumstances, the volume of the Community tariff quota for the period from 1 July 1981 to 30 June 1982 should be fixed at 83,011 hectolitres of pure alcohol.

3. The Regulation provides in the usual way, for the splitting up of the tariff volume into two parts, of which the first will be allocated among the Member States as quota shares and the second will be kept as a reserve.

The allocation of the first instalment has to be determined by taking into account actual trends on the markets in question, the needs of the Member States and economic prospects for the period under consideration.

However, in this case, this principle cannot be applied completely. For, during the past three years there were no imports in certain Member States, and in other Member States they were insignificant. To allocate the quotas in question nevertheless, equitably among Member States, it appears desirable to provide for a significant share of the quota amount for each of the Member States.

4. It is proposed that the draft regulation of the Council on the opening, allocation and administration of the Community tariff quota outlined above be approved (see annex).

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opening, allocating and providing for the administration of a Community tariff quota for rum, arrak and tafia falling within subheading 22.09 C I of the Common Customs Tariff and originating in the overseas countries and territories associated with the European Economic Community (1981/1982).

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community, and in particular Article 136 thereof,

Having regard to Council Decision 80/1186/EEC of 16 December 1980 on the association of the overseas countries and territories with the European Economic Community (1), and in particular Annex IX thereto,

Having regard to the proposal from the Commission,

Whereas Annex IX of Decision 80/1186/EEC provides that rum, arrack and tafia shall be imported into the Community free of customs duties within the limits of a Community tariff quota; whereas the annual size of the quota is to be fixed on the basis of a basic annual quantity, calculated in hectolitres of pure alcohol, to which a growth rate of 18 % is to be applied, equal to the amount of imports during the best of the last three years for which statistics are available; whereas this rate may be modified in the light of certain criteria; whereas the quota period lasts from 1 July until 30 June of the following year; whereas this Community tariff

quota should be opened for the period
1 July 1981 to 30 June 1982;

Whereas Community statistics for the years 1978 to 1980 show that the highest volume of imports into the Community of the products in question originating in the said countries and territories, namely 70 349 hectolitres of pure alcohol, occurred in 1978; whereas, in the light of consumption and production within the Community and of the development of trade both

(1) O.J. N. L 361, 31.12.1980, p. 1

within the Community and between the Community, the countries and territories and the ACP States, the rate of growth for the quota period in question may be fixed at 18 %; whereas the Community tariff quota for the period 1 July 1984 to 30 June 1982 should therefore be fixed at 83 011 hectolitres of pure alcohol;

Whereas, in order to take into account import trends for the products concerned in the various Member States, the quota volume should be divided into two instalments, the first being shared among the Member States and the second constituting a reserve to cover at a later date the requirements of Member States which have used up their initial quota shares; whereas, in order to give importers in each Member State a certain degree of security, the first instalment of the Community quota should, under the present circumstances, be fixed at 90 % of the quota volume;

Whereas, taking into account actual trends on the markets for the products in question, the needs of the Member States and the economic prospects for the period under consideration, the percentage shares in the quota volume may be laid down as follows:

Benelux	0.13
Denmark	0.20
Germany	99.04
Greece	0.08
France	0.08
Ireland	0.26
Italy	0.08
United Kingdom	0.13

Whereas the Member States' initial shares may be used up at different times; whereas, in order to take this fact into account and avoid any break in continuity, any Member State which has almost used up its initial share must draw an additional share from the reserve; whereas this must be done by each Member State as and when each of its additional shares is almost entirely used up, and repeated as many times as the reserve allows; whereas the initial and additional shares must be valid until the end of the quota period; whereas this method of administration requires close cooperation between the Member States and the Commission, and the Commission must be in a position to monitor the extent to which the quota volume has been used up and inform the Member States thereof;

Whereas if, at a given date in the quota period, a considerable quantity is left over in any Member State, it is essential that that Member State should return a significant proportion to the reserve to prevent a part of the Community quota from remaining unused in one Member State when it could be used in others;

Whereas the development of imports into the Community of these products should be recorded and imports should accordingly be monitored;

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 share allocated to that economic union may be carried out by any one of its members,

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

Article 1

1. From 1 July 1980 to 30 June 1981 rum, arrack and tafia falling within subheading 22.09 C I of the Common Customs Tariff and originating in the

countries and territories referred to in Article 1 of Decision 80/1186/EEC shall be imported free of customs duty into the Community within the limits of a Community tariff quota of 83 011 hectolitres of pure alcohol.

2. The rules of origin applicable to the products referred to in paragraph 1 shall be those set out in Annex II of Decision 80/1186/EEC

Article 2

1. The Community tariff quota referred to in Article 1 shall be divided into two instalments.

2. A first instalment, amounting to 74 700 hectolitres, shall be shared among the Member States ; the respective shares, which subject to Article 5 shall be valid until 30 June 1982, shall be as follows :

	(hectolitres of pure alcohol)
Benelux	100
Denmark	150
Germany	73970
Greece	60
France	60
Ireland	200
Italy	60
United Kingdom	100

3. The second instalment of 8 311 hectolitres shall constitute the reserve.

Article 3

1. If 90 % or more of a Member State's initial share as specified in Article 2 (2), or of that share minus the portion returned to the reserve, where Article 5 is applied, has been used up, that Member State shall without delay, by notifying the Commission, draw a second share equal to 15 % of its initial share, rounded up where necessary to the next unit, to the extent permitted by the amount of the reserve.

2. If, after its initial share has been used up, 90 % or more of the second share drawn by a Member State has been used up, that Member State shall, in accordance with the conditions laid down in paragraph 1, draw a third share equal to 7.5 % of its initial share, rounded up where necessary to the next unit.

3. If, after its second share has been used up, 90 % or more of the third share drawn by a Member State has been used up, that Member State shall, in accordance with the same conditions, draw a fourth share equal to the third.

This process shall continue until the reserve is used up.

4. By way of derogation from paragraphs 1, 2 and 3, a Member State may draw shares smaller than those fixed in those paragraphs if there is reason to believe that they might not be used up. It shall inform the Commission of its reasons for applying this paragraph.

Article 4

Additional shares drawn pursuant to Article 3 shall be valid until 30 June 1982.

Article 5

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

The Member States shall, not later than 1 April 1982, notify the Commission of the total quantities of the said goods imported up to 15 March 1982 inclusive and charged against the Community quota, and of any quantities of the initial shares returned to the reserve.

Article 6

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

It shall inform the Member States, not later than 5 April 1982, of the amount in the reserve after quantities have been returned pursuant to Article 5.

The Commission shall ensure that the drawing which uses up the reserve is limited to the balance available and to this end shall specify the amount thereof to the Member State which makes the last drawing.

Article 7

1. The Member States shall take all measures necessary to ensure that additional shares drawn pursuant to Article 3, are opened in such a way that imports may be charged without interruption against their accumulated shares of the Community quota.

2. The Member States shall ensure that importers of the said products established in their territory have free access to the shares allocated to them.

3. The extent to which a Member State has used up its share shall be determined on the basis of the imports of the goods in question entered with the customs authorities for free circulation.

Article 8

1. In accordance with Article 6 of Annex IX to Decision 80/1186 /EEC, the Community shall monitor imports of the products in question originating in the said countries and territories.
2. Member States shall forward to the Commission not later than the 15th day of each month statements of imports of the products in question effected during the preceding month; only products entered at customs in declarations for free circulation and accompanied by a movement certificate conforming to the rules referred to in Article 1 (2) shall be taken into consideration for this purpose.
3. The Commission shall regularly inform the Member States of the extent to which the tariff quota has been used up.
4. Where necessary, consultations may be held at the request of a Member State or on the initiative of the Commission.

Article 9

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

Article 10

This Regulation shall enter into force on 1 July 1981.

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

Done at Brussels,

For the Council
The President