

# COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

COM(74) 418 Final

Brussels, 3 April 1974

Proposal for a  
REGULATION (EEC) OF THE COUNCIL  
extending the Community tariff quota opened by Regulation (EEC) No 3590/73  
of 28 December 1973 for newsprint falling within subheading No 48.01A of  
the Common Customs Tariff to include certain papers falling within  
subheading No 48.01E thereof.

(submitted to the Council by the Commission)

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EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

1. This proposal for a Regulation follows a request by the Benelux countries that paper which meets all the requirements of newsprint (see additional note to Chapter 48), except as regards watermarks, be admitted free of customs duties on the same basis as newsprint falling within subheading No 48.01A. This request was justified on account of the supply difficulties encountered by industries using paper owing to the present acute world shortage of newsprint.
  
2. The question was studied at a number of meetings organized by the Commission and was based on three possible solutions which emerged during the discussions, namely:
  - (a) the abolition, for a limited period of time, of the watermarks criterion in the definition of newsprint contained in the additional note to Chapter 48 of the Common Customs Tariff;
  - (b) the creation of a tariff quota at a reduced rate of duty within subheading No 48.01E for paper meeting all the requirements of newsprint except as regards watermarks;
  - (c) the possibility of counting paper without watermarks, whether limited in quantity or not, under the Community tariff quota opened for newsprint by Regulation (EEC) No 3590/73 of 28 December 1973 (OJ No L 365, 31 December 1973).
  
3. At the end of these meetings it seemed that, given the likely temporary nature of the present shortage and the fact that the market in paper is very sensitive in the Community and has been the subject of special provisions in agreements made with certain supplying countries, unanimous agreement could only be reached on the last solution mentioned above on condition that the paper in question should be very strictly controlled in each Member State so as to ensure that it is used for the purpose described in the additional note to Chapter 48.

The Commission believes, as regards the quantitative limitation about which Member States are not yet altogether agreed, that in the present situation, it would be preferable to allow the imports to be counted under the tariff quota only up to a limit of 50% of the quota shares allotted to Member States when allocating the quota volume.

4. The proposal for a Regulation provides, moreover, given the object in view, that imports of paper without watermarks falling within subheading No 48.01E and free from customs duties under the tariff quota in question shall not be counted under the ceilings fixed for that subheading within the framework of free trade agreements made by the Community with the non-candidate EFTA countries on accession.

Proposal for a  
Regulation (EEC) of the Council

extending the Community tariff quota opened by Regulation (EEC) No 3590/73 of 28 December 1973 for newsprint falling within subheading No 48.01A of the Common Customs Tariff to include certain papers falling within subheading No 48.01E thereof.

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community, and in particular Articles 113 and 28 thereof;

Having regard to the proposal from the Commission;

Whereas by its Regulation (EEC) No 3590/73<sup>1</sup> of 28 December 1973 the Council opened and allocated among the Member States for 1974 a duty-free Community tariff quota of 3 053 000 metric tons for newsprint falling within subheading No 48.01A of the Common Customs Tariff; whereas according to the additional note to Chapter 48 the expression "newsprint" shall for the purpose of subheading 48.01A be taken to apply to white paper or to paper which has been slightly coloured in the pulp, the mechanical pulp content of which represents at least 70% of the total fibre content, glazed to an extent not exceeding 130 seconds Bekk, unsized, weighing not less than 40 g/m<sup>2</sup> and not more than 57 g/m<sup>2</sup>, with watermarks not less than 4 cm but not more than 10 cm apart, imported in reels of a width of not less than 31 cm, containing 8% or less by weight of fillers, and intended for the printing of daily newspapers, weekly papers or other periodicals of heading No 49.02, published at least ten times per year;

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<sup>1</sup>OJ No L 365 of 31 December 1973, p. 36.

Whereas, on account of the present world shortage of paper meeting the aforementioned requirements, in particular that relating to watermarks, it is appropriate that provision should be made on a temporary basis for extending, within appropriate quantitative limits, the tariff quota in question to include certain types of paper which fulfil all the requirements except that relating to watermarks and which, at present, fall within tariff subheading No 48.01E;

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

Article 1

1. Member States are authorized, until 31 December 1974, to import, under the Community tariff quota opened by Regulation (EEC) No 3590/73<sup>1</sup> of 28 December 1973 for newsprint falling within subheading No 48.01A of the Common Customs Tariff, paper falling within subheading No 48.01E which meets all the criteria for the definition of newsprint contained in the additional note to Chapter 48 save that relating to watermarks, provided that such imports shall not exceed 50% of the respective shares allocated to them in the said quota.
2. Imports of the paper concerned free of duties under the said tariff quota shall not be counted against the ceilings fixed under certain free trade agreements.

Article 2

Member States shall take all measures necessary to ensure that the paper concerned is in fact intended for the printing of newspapers, weekly papers or other periodicals of heading No 49.02, published at least ten times per year.

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<sup>1</sup>OJ No L 365, 31 December 1973, p. 36.

Article 3

This Regulation shall enter into force on the third 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,

For the Council  
The President