

# COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

COM(82) 639 final

Brussels, 19 October 1982

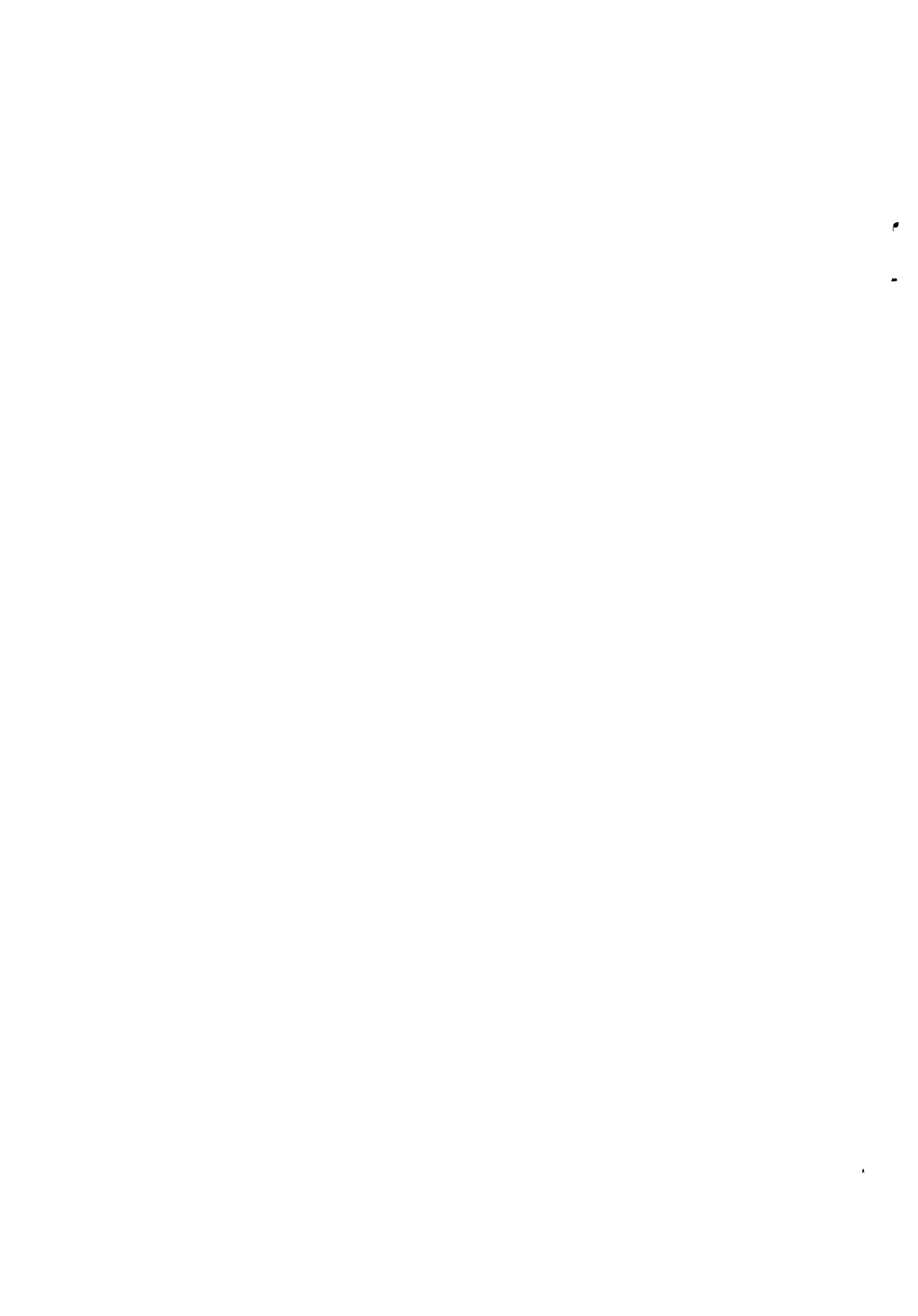
Proposal for a  
COUNCIL REGULATION (EEC)

on rules for a prohibition to import skins of certain  
sealpups and products derived therefrom into the  
Community

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(submitted to the Council by the Commission)

COM(82) 639 final



EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

Subject : Proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC) on common rules for a prohibition to import skins of certain sealpups and products derived therefrom into the Community.

1. The annual cull of baby harp and hooded seals meets with moral objections among large sections of the general public in the Community and elsewhere. Concern was also expressed by European Parliament; the first written question on the issue of "the massacre of seals" dates back to 1974 and was followed by a great number of written and oral questions by Members of Parliament since, calling for Community measures to stop the annual killing of baby seals.

In March 1982, European Parliament adopted a Resolution on the subject requesting the Commission amongst other things "to introduce, by means of a Regulation, a ban on Community imports of all skins and products derived from young hooded and harp seals".

2. As a result of the increasingly strong public demand for measures to stop the annual large scale cull of sealpups, several Member States have taken or are considering steps aiming at a prohibition of imports of or trade in skins of sealpups and products derived therefrom. This implies the risk that distorsions of competition within the Community could arise.
3. Consultations with Canada and Norway with a view to bring about a prohibition on the killing of baby seals have not had positive results.
4. In view of this situation the Commission thinks it appropriate to prohibit the importation into the Community of the skins of whitecoat pups of harp seals and of pups of hooded seals (bluebacks) as well as of certain products derived therefrom.
5. The Annex of the proposed Regulation includes the products for which a common customs control at the Community's external frontiers should be set up to ensure that the operation of the common market is not disturbed.

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The Commission therefore proposes that the Council adopt the attached Proposal for a Regulation.

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THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES :

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community,  
and in particular Article 113 thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the Commission,

Having regard to the opinion of the European Parliament,

Having regard to the opinion of the Economic and Social Committee,

Whereas several Member States have taken or are, in view of the  
increasing public demand for such a measure, considering steps  
towards a prohibition of imports of or trade in skins of seal-  
pups and products derived therefrom;

Whereas measures in restriction of international trade must be  
taken at Community level;

Whereas it is appropriate therefore to prohibit import  
into the Community of the skins of whitecoat pups of harp seals  
and of pups of hooded seals as well as of certain products  
derived therefrom;

Whereas to make the application of this measure effective, a common  
list of the products concerned must be drawn up;

Whereas it is necessary to provide for exemption from the import  
prohibition in specific cases:

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION :

Article 1

Import into the Community of the products listed in the annex is hereby prohibited.

Article 2

Article 1 shall not apply

- (a) where products are brought into the Community and placed under either a customs transit procedure or a temporary storage procedure;
- (b) where the products listed under number 2 in the annex accompany travellers or are contained in their personal luggage or where they form part of the personal effects of individuals settling in the Community, provided that the quantity, kind, quality or any other circumstances prove that the products are not being imported for commercial purposes.

Article 3

This Regulation shall enter into force on the third day following its publication in the Official Journal of the European Communities. It shall apply with effect from 1 March 1983.

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

Done at Brussels

For the Council

ANNEX

| <u>N°</u> | <u>CCT N°</u>        | <u>Description</u>  |
|-----------|----------------------|---|
| 1         | ex 43.01<br>ex 43.02 | Raw furskins and furskins, tanned or dressed including furskins assembled in plates, crosses, tanned or dressed of whitecoat , pups of harp seals and of pups of hooded seals (bluebacks) |
| 2         | ex 43.03             | Articles of the furskins referred to in 1   |