

COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

COM(76) 647 final

Brussels, 30 November 1976

Proposal amending the proposals for
regulations (EEC) establishing indicative
ceilings and Community supervision for
imports of certain products originating
in Austria and Sweden

(presented by the Commission to the Council pursuant to the
second paragraph of Article 149 of the EEC Treaty)

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establishing indicative ceilings and Community
supervision for imports of certain products originating
in Austria and Sweden

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

1. Background to the problem :

On 24 September the Commission put forward proposals for Council regulations (EEC) establishing indicative ceilings and Community supervision for imports of certain products originating in Austria and Sweden (Doc. COM(76) 489 final of 24 September 1976 - Council Document S/1478/76 (EFTA 40)). The products covered by these proposals include certain products of the paper industry, in respect of which it is proposed that the 1976 indicative ceilings should be increased by 5% for 1977.

At the time these proposals were drawn up, the partial information available suggested a certain downturn in the paper industry although it was not possible at that stage to record an actual drop in the level of activity. Since that time the situation in the paper industry has become worse. The information supplied both by the national administrations and the professional organizations of the paper industry shows a marked decline in domestic and export orders and an increase in factory stocks. At the same time there are signs of an appreciable increase in imports of these same products from the Scandinavian countries and Austria. There seems to be little likelihood in the near future of a reversal in these two phenomena which could lead to an improvement in the situation for the Community industry.

2. Conclusion :

An analysis of the problem leads to the conclusion that it is essential that measures be taken to restore as far as possible some equilibrium

.../...

in this situation in order to help the Community industry. One possibility, the principle of which is provided for in Protocol 1 to the EEC-EFTA Agreements, would be to maintain during 1977 certain indicative ceilings at the levels set for 1976.

Since it is held that this measure should be adopted only in respect of products which are considered particularly sensitive or on which it would have a sufficient economic impact, the application of this measure can be justified for two categories (i.e. two ceilings) of paper originating in Austria and four categories (i.e. four ceilings) of paper originating in Sweden.

PROPOSALS

It is proposed to amend as indicated below the proposals for Council regulations (EEC) establishing indicative ceilings and Community supervision for imports of certain products originating in Austria and Sweden. (COM(76) 489 final of 24 September forwarded to the Council on 24 September).

1. Austria (Annex A of the above document) :

The following shall be inserted in the second recital :

"whereas, on the other hand, in the event of short-term economic difficulties, the Community may, under Article 3(c) of Protocol 1, maintain the ceiling amounts of the preceding year; whereas, however, application of this measure must be limited to products most affected by the short-term difficulties;"

In column 5 of Annex I to Annex A, the ceiling amounts indicated opposite the following order numbers shall be amended as follows :

I A 5	12 687 t (in place of 13 321 t),
I A 6	17 826 t (in place of 18 717 t).

.../...

2. Sweden (Annex F of the above document) :

The following shall be inserted in the second recital /

"whereas, on the other hand, in the event of short-term economic difficulties, the Community may, under Article 3(c) of Protocol 1, maintain the ceiling amounts of the preceding year; whereas, however, application of this measure must be limited to products most affected by the short-term difficulties;"

In column 5 of Annex I of Annex F, the ceiling amounts indicated opposite the following order numbers shall be amended as follows :

I S 4	32 312 t (in place of 33 928 t),
I S 11	114 789 t (in place of 120 528 t),
I S 12	12 613 t (in place of 13 244 t),
I S 14	13 840 t (in place of 14 532 t).

