COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

<u>COM(76)</u> 636 final.

Brussels, 22 November 1976.

Draft of a COUNCIL REGULATION (EEC)

temporarily and totally suspending the autonomous Common Customs Tariff duties on potatoes of subheadings 07.01 A I, II a) and III b)

(submitted to the Council by the Commission)

COM(76) 636 final.

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EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

According to the most recent information, the 1976 harvest is very poor. It is expected to be in the area of 28/29 mio t., i.e. 14 - 15% less in comparison with the 1975 harvest (33,589 mio t.) which was already in deficit. It must be added that the quantity of stocks is unsatisfactory and there are problems in conservation.

At present, the market is almost static, but at a level of prices higher than last year. Up to the present, imports, especially from the USA and Canada, have permitted an effective response to stabilizing the Community market, both for ware potatoes and potato plants.

In order to ease the future supply of the Community market and at the same time to restrain the forecast trend towards higher prices, the Commission proposes:

- <u>a</u> the prolongation of the total suspension of CCT duties until the 28th February 1977 for:
 - ware potatoes, sub-position 07.01, A III b,
 - potato plants, sub-position 07.01, A. I.

b the total suspension of customs duties until the 28th February 1977 for:

- new potatoes, sub-position 07.01. II a.

Draft of a COUNCIL REGULATION (EEC)

temporarily and totally suspending the autonomous Common Customs Tariff duties on potatoes of subheadings 07.01 A I, II a) and III b)

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community, and in particular Article 28 thereof,

Having regard to the draft Regulation submitted by the Commission,

Whereas, in view of the risk of increases in the cost of living which might result from the current shortage of potatoes in the Community, the suspension of the autonomous Common Customs Tariff duties on potatoes of subheadings 07.01 A I and III b), at present in force and expiring on 31 December 1976 (1), should be extended from 1 January until 28 February 1977 and the autonomous Common Customs Tariff duty on potatoes of subheading 07.01 A II a) should also be totally suspended for the same period,

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION :

Article |

From 1 January until 28 February 1977 the autonomous Common Customs Tariff duties on the following goods shall be totally suspended :

CCT heading No	Description of goods	
07.01 A I	Seed potatoes	
07.01 A II a)	New potatoes	
07.01 A III b)	Other potatoes	

(1) OJ No L 251, 15.9.1976, p. 3 and 4.

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Article 2

This Regulation shall enter into force on the 1 January 1977.

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

Done at Brussels,

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For the Council

The President

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FINANCIAL SHEET

Annex to doc. GUD/1160/76

Date 18 November 1976

1. Budget line concerned : Chap. 12, art. 120

2. Title of activity : Council Regulation temporarily and totally suspending the Common Customs Tariff duties for potatoes of subheadings 07.01 A I, II a) and III b)

3. Legal basis : Art. 28 Treaty of Rome

4. Objectives of the activity :

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Suspension of CCT duties for goods mentioned under 2.

5.0	Costs of the activity	1976	1977	
	to the account of the EC budget by non collection of duties		2,381,000 UA	