

COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

COM(75) 696 final.

Brussels, 23 December 1975

Recommendation for a

COUNCIL REGULATION (EEC)

concluding the Agreement in the form of an exchange of letters
between the European Economic Community and the State of Israel
suspending application of the tariff reduction for imports into
the Community of tomato concentrates originating in Israel

(submitted to the Council by the Commission)

COM(75) 696 final.

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

Article 9 of Protocol No 1 to the Agreement between the European Economic Community and the State of Israel signed on 11 May 1975 provides that for certain products, including tomato concentrates originating in Israel, customs duties on imports into the Community shall be reduced subject to compliance with the conditions agreed upon by exchange of letters.

The exchange of letters at present in force expires on 31 December 1975. It will not be possible to renew it before that date since the two Parties are not in agreement on the contents, particularly quantitative voluntary restraint by Israel.

In order to find a solution to the serious difficulties which - as previous experience has shown - are likely to arise from this situation, the two Parties have come round to the solution of concluding an exchange of letters suspending application of the tariff reduction pending a new exchange of letters.

The Commission accordingly recommends that the Council adopt as soon as possible this recommendation for a regulation concluding the exchange of letters suspending the tariff reduction for imports into the Community of tomato concentrates originating in Israel.

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A COUNCIL REGULATION (EEC)

concluding the Agreement in the form of an exchange of letters between the European Economic Community and the State of Israel suspending application of the tariff reduction for imports into the Community of tomato concentrates originating in Israel

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

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

Having regard to the recommendation from the Commission,

Whereas Article 9 of Protocol No 1 to the Agreement between the European Economic Community and the State of Israel¹ provides for a tariff reduction of 30% of the Common Customs Tariff rate for imports into the Community of tomato concentrates originating in Israel, subject to compliance with the conditions agreed upon by exchange of letters;

Whereas an exchange of letters covering the period from 1 October to 31 December 1975 was concluded on 16 October 1975²;

Whereas the negotiations with Israel for the conclusion of the exchange of letters covering the year 1976 have not resulted in agreement, particularly as regards quantitative voluntary restraint;

Whereas in these circumstances, until agreement is reached an agreement should be concluded between the Community and Israel in the form of an exchange of letters suspending application of the tariff reduction in question,

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

Article 1

The Agreement in the form of an exchange of letters suspending application of the tariff reduction for imports into the Community of tomato concentrates of the sub position 20.02 ex C of the Common Customs Tariff originating in Israel is hereby concluded on behalf of the Community.

(1) OJ No L 136, 28 May 1975, p.3.

(2) OJ No L 272, 23 October 1975, p.4.

The text of the Agreement is annexed to this Regulation.

Article 2

The President of the Council is hereby authorized to designate the person empowered to sign the exchange of letters referred to in Article 1 and to confer on him the necessary powers for the purpose of binding the Community.

Article 3

This Regulation shall enter into force on the eighth day following the day of 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

For the Council,

The President.

Letter No 1

Your Excellency,

Since the exchange of letters provided for in Article 9 of Protocol No 1 to the Agreement between the European Economic Community and the State of Israel has not been concluded for the year 1976, the necessary conditions have not been met for the application of the tariff reduction for imports into the Community of tomato concentrates prepared or preserved otherwise than by vinegar or acetic acid, falling within subheading 20.02 ex C of the Common Customs Tariff and originating in Israel.

In these circumstances application of the tariff provisions of Article 9 of Protocol No 1 to the Agreement is suspended for the products in question until the entry into force of a new exchange of letters.

I should be grateful if you would confirm your Government's agreement to the foregoing.

Please accept, Your Excellency, the assurance of my highest consideration.

(signed) On behalf of the Council of the European
Communities.

Letter 2

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter of today worded as follows:

" Since the exchange of letters provided for in Article 9 of Protocol No 1 to the Agreement between the European Economic Community and the State of Israel has not been concluded for the year 1976, the necessary conditions have not been met for the application of the tariff reduction for imports into the Community of tomato concentrates prepared or preserved otherwise than by vinegar or acetic acid, falling within subheading 20.02 ex C of the Common Customs Tariff and originating in Israel.

" In these circumstances application of the tariff provisions of Article 9 of Protocol No 1 to the Agreement is suspended for the products in question until the entry into force of a new exchange of letters.

" I should be grateful if you would confirm your Government's agreement to the foregoing. "

I am able to confirm my Government's agreement with the foregoing.

Please accept, Sir, the assurance of my highest consideration.

(signed) The Ambassador.