

COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

COM(76) 357 final

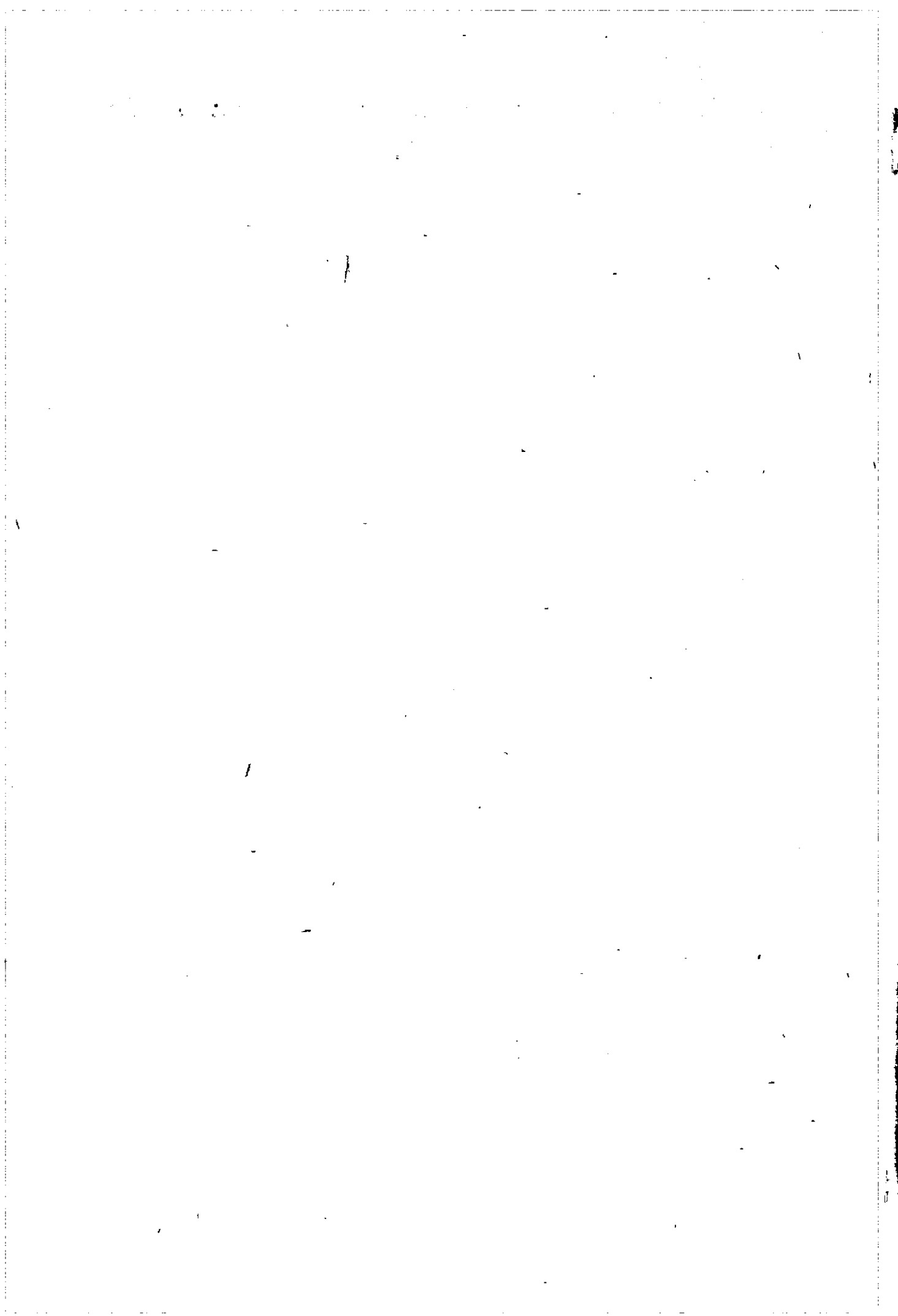
Brussels, 12 July 1976

Recommendation for
COUNCIL REGULATION (EEC)

of concluding the Agreement in the form of an
exchange of letters amending Annex A to Protocol
No 1 to the Agreement between the European Economic
Community and the Republic of Austria
the Republic of Finland
the Republic of Iceland
the Kingdom of Norway
the Kingdom of Sweden
the Swiss Confederation

(submitted by the Commission to the Council)

COM(76) 357 final



Commission Communication to the Council

Amendment of Protocol No 1 to each of the Agreements
concluded between the EEC and six EFTA States

1. Under the transitional arrangements provided for in Protocol No 1 to each of the Agreements between the Community and the EFTA States, the United Kingdom is authorized to open each year certain zero-duty tariff quotas vis-à-vis the EFTA countries. In general these quotas are expressed in metric tons. However, in the case of products falling within Chapter 49 the quota is determined in pounds sterling because during the reference period 1968-1971 not all imports were recorded by weight. Meanwhile, inflation and exchange rate fluctuations have distorted this basis.
2. For this reason, a number of EFTA countries have asked that the quota be expressed in terms of weight. In 1974 the UK's import statistics were drawn up for the first time in terms of weight as well as in terms of value; it has therefore been possible to find a value/weight conversion formula which has enabled the average of imports during the period 1968-71 - up to now expressed in pounds - to be converted into metric tons.
3. After discussion by the appropriate Community authorities, these results have been transmitted to our EFTA partners, which have stated that they are in agreement with the figures submitted to them for the volumes of these zero-duty quotas.
4. In order to incorporate these amendments into the text of the Agreements with the EFTA countries an exchange of letters between the EEC and six EFTA States is needed. For Portugal the amendment will be made within another framework.
5. It is recommended that the Council approve the drafts of the regulation and letters annexed to this communication and designate the person empowered to sign the exchanges of letters. It is proposed that Mr. de Kergerlay, Deputy Director-General of the Directorate-General for External Relations of the Commission, sign on behalf of the Community. In that event, the Ambassadors of the EFTA States could sign on behalf of their respective Governments.



Recommendation for Council Regulation (EEC) No /76
of concluding the Agreement in the form of an
exchange of letters amending Annex A to Protocol No 1
to the Agreement between the European Economic
Community and (1)

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 of the Commission,

Whereas Annex A to Protocol No 1 to the Agreement concluded between the
European Economic Community and (1) should be amended and
the Agreement in the form of an exchange of letters should be concluded,

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION :

Article 1

The Agreement in the form of an exchange of letters amending Annex A to
Protocol No 1 to the Agreement between the European Economic Community
and (1) is hereby concluded and approved on
behalf of the Community.

The text of the Agreement is annexed to this Regulation.

Article 2

The President of the Council is hereby authorised to designate the person
empowered to sign the Agreement in the form of an exchange of letters
referred to in Article 1 with the effect of binding the Community.

Article 3

This Regulation shall enter into force on the 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

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(1) The Republic of Austria, the Republic of Finland, the Republic of Iceland,
the Kingdom of Norway, the Kingdom of Sweden, the Swiss Confederation

Letter No 1

Brussels,

Your Excellency,

Under the transitional arrangements provided for in Protocol No 1 to the Free Trade Agreement between the European Economic Community and (1) signed on (2), the United Kingdom is authorized to open each year zero-duty tariff quotas for the products listed in Annex A to Protocol No 1. The quota for certain products of Chapter 49 of the Common Customs Tariff is expressed in pounds sterling because during the reference period 1968-1971 not all imports of these products were recorded in terms of weight. Meanwhile, inflation and exchange rate fluctuations have distorted this basis. For this reason, it has proved desirable that this quota be expressed in terms of weight. A comparison of the values and weights of UK imports during recent years has made it possible to convert the average imports of the period 1968/1971 into metric tons. This figure is (3) metric tons.

Accordingly the Community considers that, pursuant to Article 1 (4) of Protocol No 1 to the Agreement between the European Economic Community and (1), the initial zero-duty quota which the United Kingdom was entitled to open in 1974 for certain products of Chapter 49 and which is stated in the United Kingdom column of Annex A of the said Protocol No 1 should read (4) metric tons and not (5) pounds sterling. Therefore, in accordance with Article 1 (4), of Protocol No 1, the quota which the United Kingdom is entitled to open for 1976 is (6) metric tons.

I should be grateful if you would confirm the agreement of your Government with the contents of this letters.

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

On behalf of the Council of the
European Communities

.../...

1) The Republic of Austria, the Republic of Finland, the Republic of Iceland,
the Kingdom of Norway, the Kingdom of Sweden, the Swiss Confederation.

2) Austria, Iceland, Sweden, Switzerland : 22 July 1972

Norway : 14 May 1973; Finland : 5 October 1973

	3)	4)	5)	6)
Austria	154.495 t	187.790 t	178 249	207.039 t
Finland	631.000 t	766.985 t	192 477	845.600 t
Iceland	1.765 t	2.144 t	1 804	2.647 t
Norway	56.458 t	68.625 t	45 396	75.659 t
Sweden	1 077.254 t	1.309.409 t	674 473	1 443.623 t
Switzerland	756.055 t	918.989 t	756 918	1 013.186 t

Letter No 2

Brussels,

Sir,

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

"Under the transitional arrangements provided for in.....

.....

.....

..... the assurance of my highest consideration."

I have the honour to confirm the agreement of my Government with the contents of your letter.

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

On behalf of the Government of

.....

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