

COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

COM(82) 506 final

Brussels, 9 September 1982

Proposal for a
COUNCIL REGULATION (EEC)

amending Regulation (EEC) No 950/68 on the
Common Customs Tariff

(submitted to the Council by the Commission)

COM(82) 506 final



EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

1. Introduction

- 1.1. By Regulation (EEC) No 950/68 of 28 June 1968 (1), the Council adopted, in the form of an Annex to that Regulation, the Common Customs Tariff as applicable on that date, that is to say taking into account the various autonomous regulations or decisions in force as well as the Community's commitments towards third countries.
- 1.2. As from 1 January 1970, this Regulation (EEC) No 950/68, has been subject annually to an amending regulation of the Council in the form of a further updated "Common Customs Tariff" Annex. This should likewise be the case on 1 January 1983.
- 1.3. In order to enable all Member States and all users to have an up-to-date Regulation in the official languages of the Community, it is proposed that the Council should adopt, on the basis of Articles 28 and 113 of the Treaty, the Common Customs Tariff in the form of a Regulation amending Regulation (EEC) No 950/68 of 28 June 1968. For practical reasons, only the pages of the Common Customs Tariff (in its current Official Journal version) which are the subject of amendments, including those of a minor editorial nature, appear in Annex. In the edition which will be published in the Official Journal, the Common Customs Tariff will nevertheless appear in its entirety.

2. Amendments set out in this draft Regulation, as compared with the text in force on 1 January 1982

2.1. Amendments resulting from international commitments

- 2.1.1. The Geneva Protocol and the Additional Protocol concluded in 1979 as a result of the multilateral trade negotiations which took place within the GATT in Geneva, contains a list of concessions in the agricultural and industrial sectors.

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(1) OJ No L 172, 22.7.1968, p.1

- 2.1.2. This draft takes account of provisions laid down for the implementation of the said concessions by equal annual reductions from 1.1.1980, with certain exceptions.
- 2.1.3. As laid down for each reduction phase, the intermediate rate has been rounded to the nearest first decimal point, it being understood that the rate so rounded will not exceed the intermediate rate, when not rounded, by more than 0.05%.
- 2.1.4. It should be noted that the concessions on the following products:
- citric acid (29.16 A IV a))
 - tetraethyl-lead (29.34 B)
and lead-based anti-knock
preparations (38.14 A and 38.14 B II)
 - textiles (Chapters 51 to 62)
 - ceramics: reductions up to zero of the specific minimum
duty for those products falling within Chapter 69
to which such a minimum duty applies and for
tariff subheading 85.25 A
 - steel (headings Nos 73.01 to 73.20)
 - titanium (81.04 K I and K II)
- will be implemented in the following manner:
- the first phase of the reductions took place on 1.1.1982,
the second is to take place on 1.1.1983
 - the subsequent reductions will take place on 1.1.1984, 85, 86, 87.
- 2.1.5. With regard to the concessions for chemicals (with certain exceptions) falling within Chapters 29, 32 and 39 of the CCT, the first reduction of duty, by one-eighth, was effected on 1 July 1980, the second reduction took effect six months after that date, on 1 January 1981, and the third will take place on 1 January 1982.
The subsequent reductions will take effect in five annual stages.

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2.1.6. The concession for kraft paper and board of subheading 48.01 C II will be implemented in four reductions, each of 0.5 points, on 1.1.1983, 1.1.1984, 1.1.1986, and 1.1.1987.

2.1.7. Under the GATT negotiations, this proposal includes, in respect of subheading 48.01 C II a new layout which takes into account the necessity to put into effect a concession relating to Kraft paper and paperboard excluding paper for large-capacity sacks, with effect from 1983.

2.2. Autonomous amendments

There have also been introduced into this proposal the amendments proposed by the Commission (doc. COM (82) 396 of 18 June 1982) relating to the layout of heading No 55.09 (Other woven fabrics of cotton) as well as an Additional Note to Chapter 55. These provisions concern cotton fabrics known as "denim" which are used in very large quantities for the manufacture of clothing and in which there is considerable trade.

2.2.1. On the proposal of a Member State, the Commission services have included a new layout for heading 37.01. This layout takes account of the introduction on the market of a new product (film in the flat presented in disc form).

2.2.2. As far as Chapters 20 and 25 are concerned, this proposal also contains a series of textual amendments approved by the Nomenclature Committee.

2.3. Amendments resulting from agricultural Regulations

2.3.1. These amendments concern changes in the tariff resulting from Regulations relating to common market organisations already in force or coming into force on 1 January 1983 at the latest.

2.3.2. These Regulations concern Chapters 2, 3, 4, 7, 10 and 20.

3. Conclusions

From the foregoing it will be seen that the draft Common Customs Tariff applicable with effect from 1.1.1983 includes an appreciable number of amendments, which follow mainly from the results of the multi-lateral negotiations in the framework of the GATT. All of these amendments except that concerning "denim fabrics", for which a separate proposal has been presented, have been the subject of a close examination by the Joint Panel of Government Experts on the Common Customs Tariff and have been approved by them. In order to make this instrument available to the national administrations and to the trade as soon as possible the Commission requests the Council to deal with this draft Regulation at one of its forthcoming meetings.

PROPOSAL FOR A
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amending Regulation (EEC) No 950/68
on the Common Customs Tariff

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community,
and in particular Articles 28 and 113 thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the Commission,

Whereas, under agreements signed with third countries, and in particular pursuant to the 1979 Geneva Protocol and the 1979 Additional Protocol to the Geneva Protocol annexed to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade and the agreement on trade in civil aircraft signed at the end of the 1973-1979 Conference on Multilateral Trade Negotiations, the Community has undertaken to make reductions in customs duties, certain of which are to be implemented for the first time on 1 January 1983; whereas it is expedient, therefore, in order to ensure uniform application of the Common Customs Tariff, to specify in Regulation (EEC) No 950/68⁽¹⁾, as last amended by Regulation (EEC) No (2), the conventional duties applicable from 1 January 1983;

Whereas certain Regulations on the common organisation of agricultural markets provide that the tariff nomenclature resulting from their application shall be included in the Common Customs Tariff and/or amend customs duties; whereas it is therefore appropriate to include in this Regulation all the amendments resulting from Regulations adopted under the common agricultural policy;

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(1) OJ No L 172, 22.7.1968, p. 1.

(2) OJ No L

Whereas it is appropriate, for the sake of clarity, to bring the whole of the Common Customs Tariff up to date; whereas, for this purpose, it is necessary to bring ^{together} / in a single text not only those parts which are amended with effect from 1 January 1983, but also those which have already been amended and those which remain unchanged; whereas, moreover, the improvement of the Common Customs Tariff and the introduction onto the market of a new product justify a certain number of textual and editorial changes, together with the insertion of a new layout for heading 37.01;

Whereas, although temporary tariff amendments and the preferential systems resulting from the various acts adopted by the Community form an integral part of the Common Customs Tariff, it seems appropriate not to include them in this Regulation;

Whereas this Regulation does not apply to products covered by the Treaty establishing the European Coal and Steel Community, although the nomenclature and the conventional duties for these products are included, for information purposes, in the Schedule of Customs Duties in order to make the latter easier to understand,

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

Article 1

The Annex headed "COMMON CUSTOMS TARIFF" to Regulation (EEC) No 950/68 is hereby replaced by the Annex to this Regulation.

Article 2

This Regulation shall enter into force on 1 January 1983.

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

Done at Brussels,

For the Council

The President