

COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

COM(81) 815 final

Brussels, 23 December 1981

DECISION

of the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States of the European Coal and Steel Community meeting within the Council, opening tariff preferences in Greece for products covered by that Community and originating in Austria, Finland, Norway, Sweden and Switzerland

(submitted to the Council by the Commission)

COM(81) 815 final

Explanatory memorandum

The additional protocols to the Free Trade Agreements signed between the Member States of the ECSC and the ECSC of the one part and the EFTA States of the other in order to take account of Greek accession, provide for reductions of tariffs and charges on imports of ECSC products by Greece in several steps. These protocols have to be ratified by all contracting parties before formally entering into force.

When at the end of 1980 the ratification procedures were not completed, the representatives of the Member States of the ECSC, meeting within the Council, decided on 22 December 1980 to apply autonomously the reductions provided for the 1 January 1981 (Decision Nr. 80/1363/ECSC).

At present the ratification procedures have still not been completed by all Member States.

Therefore, and with a view to assuring that the reductions of tariffs and charges on imports foreseen for the year of 1982 will be realized, the obligations for 1982 provided for in the additional protocols have to be applied autonomously. In the ECSC sector such autonomous Community measures have to be taken by the representatives of the Governments of the Member States of the ECSC meeting within the Council.

The EFTA States will have to assure reciprocity by adopting analogous autonomous measures.

The present proposition does not include Iceland, as that Agreement does not provide for the abolition of tariffs by the Community because Iceland is no producer.

The present decision must be taken before 1 January 1982. Greece would apply it as from that date on the basis of Article 1, paragraph 1 of the Treaty of Accession.

DECISION

of the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States of the European Coal and Steel Community meeting within the Council, opening tariff preferences in Greece for products covered by that Community and originating in Austria, Finland, Norway, Sweden and Switzerland.

THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE MEMBER STATES OF THE EUROPEAN COAL AND STEEL COMMUNITY,

Whereas the Member States have concluded among themselves the Treaty establishing the European Coal and Steel Community;

Whereas the Hellenic Republic acceded to this Community on 1 January 1981;

Whereas the additional protocols to the Agreements concluded between the Member States of the European Coal and Steel Community and the European Coal and Steel Community of the one part and the Republic of Austria, the Republic of Finland, the Kingdom of Norway and the Kingdom of Sweden of the other part, as well as the additional protocol to the Agreement concluded between the Member States of the European Coal and Steel Community and the Swiss Confederation are subject to approval of each Contracting Party in accordance with its own procedure;

Whereas the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States of the European Coal and Steel Community decided by their Decision No. 80/1363/ECSC of 22 December 1980 to autonomously apply the obligations for 1981 deriving from these additional protocols; whereas the ratification procedures for these additional protocols have not yet been completed by all Member States;

.../...

Anxious to prolong the autonomous and concomitant application of the tariff reductions on imports and the reductions of other import charges laid down in these additional protocols;

In agreement with the Commission,

HAVE DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1

1. With effect from 1 January and until 31 December 1982, the duties applicable in Greece on imports of products covered by the European Coal and Steel Community and originating in Austria, Finland, Norway, Sweden and Switzerland shall be reduced to 80 % of the basic duty, or levied at the rate of 80 % of the basic duty. The basic duties referred to shall be those duties actually applied by the Hellenic Republic on 1 July 1980.

The charges having equivalent effect to customs duties on imports applied by the Hellenic Republic to imports from the countries mentioned in the preceding paragraph, shall be reduced to 80 % of the basic rate or levied at the rate of 80 % of the basic rate. The basic rates referred to shall be those rates actually applied by the Hellenic Republic on 31 December 1980.

2. If, in the course of the year 1982, the Hellenic Republic suspends or reduces duties or charges having equivalent effect on products imported from the Community as at present constituted more quickly than under the timetable fixed by the Accession Treaty, the Hellenic Republic shall also suspend or reduce, to the same level, the duties or charges having equivalent effect on products originating in the countries enumerated in paragraph 1.

.../...

Article 2

1. The import deposits and cash payments in force in Greece on 31 December 1980 with regard to imports of products originating in the countries enumerated in Article 1, paragraph 1, shall be reduced by 50 % as from 1 January 1982.
2. If, in respect of the Community as at present constituted, the Hellenic Republic reduces, in the course of the year 1982, the import deposits and cash payments by a higher rate than that set out in paragraph 1, the Hellenic Republic shall make the same reduction with regard to imports originating in the countries enumerated in Article 1, paragraph 1.

Article 3

The modifications of the origin rules which have become necessary due to the accession of the Hellenic Republic to the European Communities and were introduced by the Joint Committees of the Agreements between the European Economic Community and the countries enumerated in Article 1, paragraph 1, and come into force on 1 January 1981, shall be applicable to the products to which this Decision refers.

Article 4

The Member States shall decide by mutual agreement on any contingent protective measures suggested by one or more Member States or the Commission.

Article 5

This Decision shall expire on the entry into force of the additional protocols to the Agreements between the Member States of the European Coal and Steel Community and the European Coal and Steel Community of the one part and the countries enumerated in Article 1, paragraph 1 of the other part, and at the latest on 31 December 1982.

Article 6

Member States shall adopt all the measures necessary for the implementation of this Decision.

Done at Brussels, 1981

The President