

COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

COM(79) 764 final

Brussels, 14 December 1979

Proposal for a
COUNCIL REGULATION (EEC)
extending the import arrangements in force for certain
jute products originating in
Bangladesh, India and Thailand

(Submitted to the Council by the Commission)

COM(79) 764 final

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

I. There is an agreement currently in force between the Community and India and another between the Community and Bangladesh on trade in jute products. These agreements provide, inter alia, for quantitative limits on exports of certain jute products, enforced by a double-checking system. To give effect within the Community to the measures for implementing the double-checking system, the Council adopted three regulations :

- (i) Council Regulation (EEC) No. 846/77 of 25 April 1977 concerning import arrangements for certain jute products originating in the Republic of India (1);
- (ii) Council Regulation (EEC) No. 1393/77 of 27 June 1977 concerning import arrangements for certain jute products originating in the People's Republic of Bangladesh (2);
- (iii) Council Regulation (EEC) No. 1617/79 of 24 July 1979 on arrangements for the importation into the Benelux countries of jute yarn originating in India (3).

The agreements with these two countries expire on 31 December, as do the above implementing regulations.

II. Under an arrangement between Thailand and the Community, Thailand's exports of jute yarn to the Benelux countries are subject to voluntary export restraint measures administered under a double-checking system. The Community implementing measures providing for the administration of these quantitative limits were laid down by Council Regulation (EEC) No. 2463/77 of 7 November 1977 concerning import arrangements into the Benelux countries of jute yarn originating in Thailand, and repealing Regulation (EEC) No. 1278/77 (4).

Both the arrangement with Thailand and the related implementing regulation also expire on 31 December.

(1) OJ No L 104, 28.4.1977, p. 2
(2) OJ No L 158, 29.6.1977, p. 14
(3) OJ No L 190, 28.7.1979, p. 12
(4) OJ No L 286, 10.11.1977, p. 4

III. The Community is currently negotiating new agreements with Bangladesh and India on trade in jute products.

It is planned to hold fresh consultations shortly with Thailand on its exports of jute yarn to the Benelux countries.

IV. The four regulations cited in sections I and II, which govern imports of jute products at the moment, are due to expire on 31 December. Neither the negotiations with India and Bangladesh nor the consultations with Thailand can be concluded in time for any import arrangements resulting from them to be put into effect within the Community by 1 January 1980.

So that there should be no legal vacuum, the current import arrangements should be extended on a temporary basis, without prejudice to the outcome of the negotiations and consultations.

The extension period could cover the first three months of 1980, by which time the negotiations and consultations with the exporting countries should be completed.

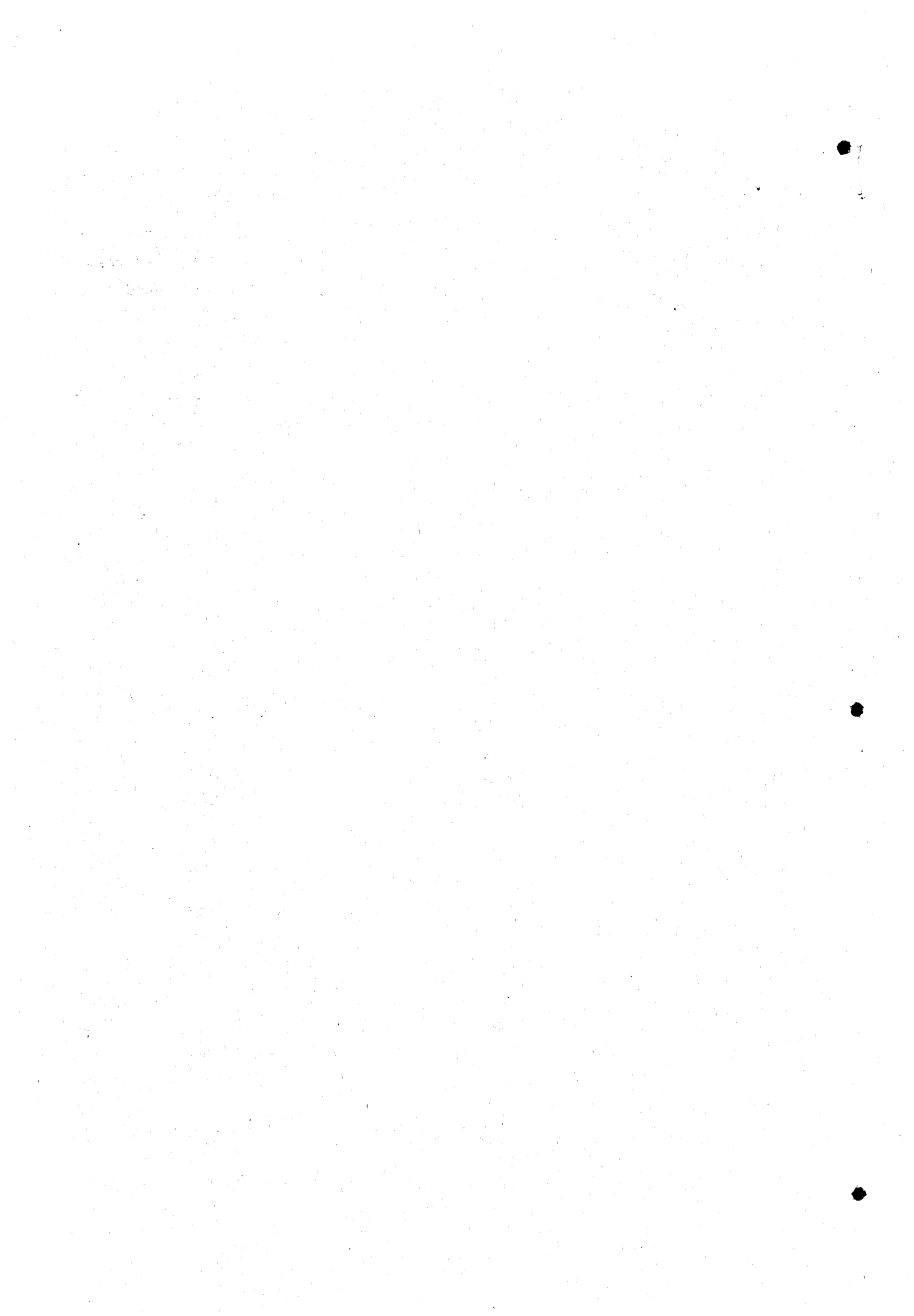
The interim quantitative limits will be based on the 1979 volumes. However, in order to avoid disrupting trade flows and to enable Community importers to have access to large enough quantities to conclude contracts, it would be inadvisable to establish the limits on a three month pro rata basis i.e. at a quarter of the 1979 levels.

It would be better to allow imports up to the 1979 limits, with quantities imported under the interim arrangements being subsequently deducted from the limits to be established by the implementing regulations putting the new agreements and arrangement into effect.

./..

India, Bangladesh and Thailand have been informed by the Commission of the need for interim arrangements and of the proposed implementing measures. All three indicated their agreement and will adopt the measures required to administer their exports of the products in question in the first three months of 1980.

The Commission therefore proposes that the Council adopt the annexed draft regulation as soon as possible since it is due to come into force on 1 January.



Proposal for a
COUNCIL REGULATION (EEC)
extending the import arrangements in force for certain
jute products originating in
Bangladesh, India and Thailand

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

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

Whereas the agreements on trade in jute products between the European Economic Community and the Republic of India and between the European Economic Community and the People's Republic of Bangladesh expire on 31 December 1979;

Whereas the arrangement between the European Economic Community and the Kingdom of Thailand concerning Thailand's exports of jute yarn to the Benelux countries also expires on 31 December 1979;

Whereas, the implementing regulations applying the above agreements and as a result of these agreements and this arrangement, the follow were adopted : Council Regulation (EEC) No. 846/77 of 25 April 1977 concerning import arrangements for certain jute products originating in the Republic of India⁽¹⁾; Council Regulation (EEC) No. 1393/77 of 27 June 1977 concerning import arrangements for certain jute products originating in the People's Republic of Bangladesh⁽²⁾; Council Regulation No. 2463/77 of 7 November 1977 concerning import arrangements into the Benelux countries of jute yarn originating in Thailand, and repealing Regulation (EEC) No. 1278/77; Council Regulation (EEC) No. 1617/79 of 24 July 1979 on arrangements for the importation into the Benelux countries of jute yarn originating in India⁽⁴⁾; whereas these regulations are also due to expire on that date;

(1) OJ No. L 104, 28.4.1977, p. 2

(2) OJ No. L 158, 29.6.1977, p. 14

(3) OJ No. 286, 10.11.1977, p. 4

(4) OJ No. L 190, 28.7.1979, p. 12

Whereas negotiations or consultations are taking place between the Community and these three countries for the conclusion of new agreements and a new arrangement; whereas the said negotiations and consultations cannot be completed in time for any import arrangements resulting from them as regards the Community to be put into effect by 1 January 1980;

Whereas it is therefore necessary to extend the import arrangements in force in 1979 for a short period, while retaining quantitative limits enabling normal trade flows to be maintained,

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION :

Article 1

1. The validity of Regulations (EEC) Nos. 846/77, 1393/77, 2463/77 and 1617/79 is hereby extended until 31 March 1980.
2. Imports may be effected for products which are subject to restraint under the Regulations cited in paragraph 1, according to quantities laid down for 1979 in those Regulations.
3. The quantities imported will be subsequently deducted from the limits to be established in the new arrangements.

Article 2

This Regulation shall enter into force on the third 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