

COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

— COM(82) 874 final

Brussels, 21 December 1982

Proposal for a  
COUNCIL REGULATION (EEC)

introducing quantitative restrictions on the imports of  
certain categories of wood in France

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(submitted to the Council by the Commission)

COM(82) 874 final



EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

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With telex of 7 December 1982, the French government has informed the Commission that French forestry was seriously effected by the storm which occurred on 7 november 1982 and that the volume of trees destroyed or damaged, in twenty departments particularly in the "massif central", reaches eleven million cubic metres, of which 80% was resinous, representing more than half of the amount normally felled in a full year in all of France; to make use of these trees will involve a production of sawn wood which is estimated at 350 000 m<sup>3</sup> of fir and spruce and 1 000 000 m<sup>3</sup> of other conifers.

Especially as regards sawn wood of fir and spruce the distribution of a quantity of 350 000 m<sup>3</sup> on a rigid market which combines an excessive supply and an inelastic demand creates considerable difficulties which are likely to provoke serious disturbances in that industry; these difficulties of disposal also risk hindering the uprooting of these trees that have been destroyed thus endangering the preservation of forest in the regions affected.

In order to resolve the consequences of this natural disaster the French Republic introduced an urgent programme involving aids for the producers concerned.

This programme is nevertheless inadequate to solve all the aspects of the problem and in particular to ensure the disposal of the excess quantity of sawn fir wood on the market.

In these circumstances the Commission proposes to the Council a derogation from Regulation (EEC) No. 288/82 imposing common rules for imports from third countries and Regulation (CEE) No. 1765/82 laying down common rules for imports from state trading countries, to make imports to France of fir and spruce wood subject to quota until 31 December 1983.

The Commission proposes that this quota be fixed at 1 200 000 m<sup>3</sup> which is approximately equal to the average imports in France in the last five years (1 500 000 m<sup>3</sup>) minus the excess quantity (350 000 m<sup>3</sup>).

An appropriate draft regulation is attached for approval.

Proposal for a  
COUNCIL REGULATION (EEC) ..

introducing quantitative restrictions on the imports of  
certain categories of wood in France

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 proposal from the Commission;

Whereas the French government has informed the Commission that French  
forestry was seriously affected by the storm which occurred on 7 November  
1982 and that the volume of trees destroyed or damaged, in twenty  
departments particularly in the "massif central", reach eleven million  
cubic metres, of which 80% was resinous, representing more than half of  
the amount normally felled in a full year in all of France; whereas to  
make use of these trees will involve a production of sawn wood which  
is estimated at 350 000 m<sup>3</sup> of fir and spruce and 1 000 000 m<sup>3</sup> of other  
conifers;

Whereas especially as regards sawn wood of fir and spruce the distribution  
of a quantity of 350 000 m<sup>3</sup> on a rigid market which combines an excessive  
supply and an inelastic demand creates considerable difficulties which  
are likely to provoke serious disturbances in that industry; whereas  
these difficulties of disposal also risk hindering the uprooting of  
these trees that have been destroyed thus endangering the preservation of  
forests in the regions affected;

Whereas in order to resolve the consequences of this natural disaster the  
French Republic introduced an urgent programme involving aids for the  
producers concerned;

Whereas this programme is nevertheless inadequate to solve all the aspects  
of the problem and in particular to ensure the disposal of the excess  
quantity of sawn fir wood on the market;

Whereas the size of this natural catastrophe and its consequences for the sector concerned and the preservation of the forests in the regions affected justifies the introduction on an exceptional and temporary basis of quantitative restrictions on imports into France of sawn fir and spruce wood originating in third countries in derogation from Council Regulation (EEC) No 288/82(1) of 5.2.1982 establishing common rules for imports from third countries from Council Regulation (EEC) N° 1765/82(2) of 30 June / 1982 laying down common rules for imports from state trading countries;

Whereas in settling these quantitative restrictions, the importance of maintaining traditional trade patterns and contracts concluded previously under normal conditions should, insofar as possible be taken into account;

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

Article 1

In derogation from Council Regulations (EEC) N° 288/82 and N° 1765/82, imports into France of the products listed hereafter originating in and coming from third countries shall be subject to a quota of 1 200 000 m<sup>3</sup>:

<u>Common Customs Tariff</u> <u>Heading No</u>	<u>Nimexe Code</u>	<u>Description of goods</u>
ex 44.05	44.05-ex 40	Fir and spruce wood sawn lengthwise, sliced or peeled, but not further prepared, of a thickness exceeding 5 mm

Article 2

Imports which are in transit to the French Republic or effected pursuant to contracts previously concluded under normal conditions are excluded from the application of the restrictions referred to in Article 1.

Article 3

This Regulation shall enter into force on the day of its publication in the Official Journal of the European Communities and shall expire on 31 December 1983.

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

Done at Brussels,