

COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

COM(76) 469 final

Brussels, 14 September 1976

PROPOSAL FOR A
COUNCIL REGULATION (EEC)

totally suspending the customs duties on
certain industrial products originating in Malta
(1977)

(submitted by the Commission to the Council)

COM(76) 469 final

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

1. By means of Regulation (EEC) No 555/74 of 4 March 1974, the Community put into operation the measures necessary to permit Malta to receive, as from 1 January 1974, treatment not less favourable than is enjoyed by countries eligible for the Generalised System of Preferences.
2. It will be necessary to adopt a similar measure for the year 1977.
3. The Commission considers that, as for the year 1976, the most appropriate autonomous measure in this context, and that best adapted to Malta's particular economic situation, would seem to be a total suspension of duty rates covered by the EEC/Malta Agreement. Further, on account of the Community's very low level, in recent years, of importations of goods originating in Malta, it does not seem opportune to propose quantitative limits (indicative ceilings or tariff quotas).
This measure does not cover products in respect of which the Agreement provides for the opening of Community tariff quotas (textile products falling within tariff heading No 55.05, 56.04, 60.05 and 61.01); other measures have been proposed separately for these.
4. By means of the annexed proposal, the Commission wishes to draw up, in good time, having regard to the inherent procedural time-lag, an instrument to give effect to the commitments to Malta and to extend to that country the benefits of the Generalised Scheme of Preferences. Being aware, however, of the problems posed by the continuing development of the situation, the Commission reserves the right to make adaptations to its proposal should such be necessary.

Annex :

- 1 proposal of a Regulation of the Council



Proposal for a
REGULATION (EEC) _____ OF THE COUNCIL

totally suspending the customs duties on certain industrial products originating in
Malta (1977)

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, by virtue of the Agreement⁽¹⁾ establishing an association between the European Economic Community and Malta, the Community applies the Common Customs Tariff duties, reduced by 70%, to products covered by this Agreement; whereas it seems advisable provisionally to increase this tariff advantage by means of the total suspension of the customs duties applicable to such products; whereas, however, this measure cannot affect the products subject to the tariff quotas provided for in the abovementioned Agreement;

Whereas, in order to avoid the danger of disrupting traditional patterns of trade by imports of such products, provision should be made to enable the Commission to re-introduce at any time, by means of a Regulation, the levying of conventional duties in respect of Malta,

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

Article 1

1. From 1 January to 31 December 1977 the Common Customs Tariff duties and the customs tariff duties of the new Member States shall be totally suspended in respect of products falling within Chapters 25 *et seq.* of the Common Customs Tariff, covered by the Agreement establishing an association between the European Economic Community and Malta, pursuant to Article 1 of Annex I thereto, with

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 61, 14. 3. 1971, p. 3.

the exception of products falling within heading Nos 55.05, 56.04, 60.05 and 61.01.

Ireland, however, shall be authorized to apply to such products duties equal to those which it applies to Member States other than the United Kingdom.

2. The suspension referred to in paragraph 1 shall apply solely to products originating in Malta. The rules of origin shall be those in force at the time as regards the implementation of the above Agreement.

Article 2

In order to avoid disrupting traditional trade patterns by imports of products benefiting from the duty suspension provided for in Article 1, the Commission may, by means of a Regulation, re-introduce the levying of customs duties at any time up to the end of the calendar year, at the level applicable in pursuance of Article 1 of Annex I to the aforesaid Agreement.

Article 3

This Regulation shall enter into force on 1 January 1977.

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

Done at Brussels,

For the Council
The President