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COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

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PROPOSAL FOR A COUNCIL REGULATION (EEC)

maintaining the arrangements for the authorization of imports into Benelux, France, Germany and the United Kingdom of certain knitted or crocheted articles of clothing originating in the Republic of Singapore

(submitted to the Council by the Commission)



Explanatory Memorandum

1. Following a sharp increase in imports into France and the United Kingdom of knitted or crocheted shirts and like articles of clothing from several non-member countries and in particular Thailand, the Philippines and Singapore, the two Member States in question asked the Commission in September and October 1976 to enter into consultations with those three countries in order to limit the imports concerned.

2. The requests were examined by a working party made up of representatives of the Member States and chaired by a representative of the Commission.

This examination revealed that the problems raised by France and the United Kingdom also existed in other regions of the Community and in particular in Germany and the Benelux countries.

The examination also showed that overall imports of the articles in question had increased sharply and substantially in 1976 and that imports from Singapore had made a large contribution to this trend.

At the close of the examination, the Commission representative proposed that consultations should be entered into with Singapore pursuant to Article 5(1) of the Agreement between the Community and the Republic of Singapore on trade in textile products, with a view to Singapore exercising voluntary restraint in respect of exports of the products in question to the Community as a whole.

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3. The request for consultations was made in a Note Verbale of the Directorate-General for External Relations on 18 October 1976. A first round took place in Singapore from 3 to 7 February 1977 and a second round in Brussels on 31 March and 1 April 1977 ended with a mutually acceptable solution.

During these consultations the Community agreed to limit the restrictions to certain regions of the Community, namely Benelux, France, Germany and the United Kingdom.

4. The effectiveness of this voluntary restraint arrangement depends, however, on the Community introducing a system of import authorizations. A system of this kind is necessary not only for checking whether Singapore keeps to the agreed limits but also in order to prevent exporters from evading export controls by sending goods to the Community via an intermediate destination, exports to which are not subject to control.

5. In order to prevent evasion of the restrictions by means of advance exports, the Commission decided to introduce the import arrangements mentioned under 4 by adopting Regulation (EEC) No 1217/70 of 6 June 1977 (1) under the procedure laid down in Article 12 of Regulation (EEC) No 1439/74.

6. Article 12 (6) of Regulation (EEC) No 1439/74 states that measures adopted by the Commission pursuant to that Article must be followed within ten working days of their entry into force by a proposal to the Council on appropriate measures which could be taken by the Council to replace the emergency measures adopted by the Commission.

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(1) OJ n° L 140 du 8.6.1977, p. 17

It should be pointed out in this context that Commission regulations adopted under Article 12 of Regulation (EEC) No 1439/74 expire six weeks after their entry into force unless they are confirmed by the Council.

The Commission accordingly proposes that the Council adopt the regulation the proposal for which is attached and which is designed to provide confirmation of the measures adopted by the Commission Regulation referred to under 5 above.

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Proposal for Council Regulation (EEC) No  
of

maintaining the arrangements for the authorization of imports  
into Germany, Benelux, France and the United Kingdom of certain  
knitted or crocheted articles of clothing originating in the  
Republic of Singapore

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EEC) No 1439/74 of 4 June 1974  
on common rules for imports (1), and in particular Article 13 thereof,

Consultations having taken place within the Advisory Committee set up  
under Article 5 of the abovementioned Regulation,

Having regard to the proposal from the Commission,

Whereas the Commission has introduced by Regulation (EEC) No 1217/77 of  
6 June 1977 (2) arrangements for the authorization of imports into  
Benelux, France, Germany and the United Kingdom of certain knitted or  
crocheted articles of clothing originating in the Republic of Singapore;

Whereas the factors which justified the introduction of these arrangements  
still persist ; whereas the arrangements should therefore remain in force  
until 31 December 1977;

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION :

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(1) OJ n° L 159, 15.6.1974, p. 1

(2) OJ n° L 140, 8.6.1977, p. 17

Article 1

The arrangements for the authorization of imports into Benelux, France, Germany and the United Kingdom of certain knitted or crocheted articles of clothing originating in the Republic of Singapore, adopted by Regulation (EEC) No 1217/77, shall remain applicable until 31 December 1977.

Article 2

This Regulation shall enter into force on 21 July 1977.

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

Done at Brussels,

For the Commission  
The President