

COMMISSION DECISION

of 23 December 1977

extending Decision 75/356/ECSC of 24 April 1975 authorizing the application of special tariff measures to the carriage by rail of iron ore from Lorraine and western France to Belgium, Luxembourg and the Saar

(Only the German and French texts are authentic)

(78/103/ECSC)

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Coal and Steel Community, and in particular Articles 2 to 5 and 70 thereof,

Whereas the application of reduced rates to the carriage by rail of French iron ore to Belgium, Luxembourg and the Saar has been authorized and extended by a number of decisions of the High Authority of the ECSC and of the Commission⁽¹⁾, of which the most recent, dated 24 April 1975, expired on 31 December 1976;

Whereas, by letters dated 24 August 1977, 26 October 1977 and 23 November 1977, from the offices of the Permanent Representatives of France, Germany and Luxembourg respectively to the European Communities, the French, German and Luxembourg Governments addressed a request to the Commission to extend until 31 December 1977, with the same tariff reductions as those applied until 31 December 1976, the special tariff measures which had been authorized by Commission Decision 75/356/ECSC of 24 April 1975⁽²⁾;

⁽¹⁾ *Lorraine — Saar:*

Decision No 13/67 of 7. 6. 1967, (OJ No 116, 17. 6. 1967),

Decision 74/302/ECSC of 22. 5. 1974 (OJ No L 171, 27. 6. 1974, p. 2);

Lorraine — Belgium:

Decision 68/349/ECSC of 31. 7. 1968 (OJ No L 230, 19. 9. 1968, p. 8),

Decision 73/48/ECSC of 4. 1. 1973, (OJ No L 83, 30. 3. 1973, p. 36.);

Lorraine — Luxembourg:

Decision 69/268/ECSC of 28. 7. 1969, (OJ No L 220, 1. 9. 1969, p. 5),

Decision 73/48/ECSC of 4. 1. 1973 (OJ No L 83, 30. 3. 1973, p. 36.);

Western France to Belgium, Luxembourg and the Saar:

Decision 73/49/ECSC of 4. 1. 1973, (OJ No L 83, 30. 3. 1973, p. 38).

⁽²⁾ OJ No L 159, 21. 6. 1975, p. 17.

Whereas in their requests the governments concerned have pointed out that the circumstances which gave rise to previous authorizations granted by the Commission still prevail today, and that, especially since the last Decision, the situation of French iron ore has worsened because of the difficulties encountered by the Community iron and steel industry;

Whereas the circumstances invoked by the governments concerned appear to be beyond question; whereas, despite the efforts of rationalization and modernization undertaken by the French iron ore mines, they are not able to overcome the negative repercussions resulting from the conjunctural and structural crisis currently affecting the iron and steel industry;

Whereas, in the context of the supply of Community raw materials, it is clearly of interest to the Community iron and steel industry that the French iron ore mines should continue to be worked, so that its sources of supply are, to a certain extent, guaranteed against the risks associated with imports from non-member countries;

Whereas the extension of the tariff measures in question helps to avoid disturbances in the employment market;

Whereas the application of the said measures is not liable to affect the common market in coal and steel; whereas, consequently, they are not contrary to the principles of the ECSC Treaty;

Whereas the Commission must reserve the right to review its Decision whenever the circumstances giving rise to it vary or no longer apply,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

In Article 1 of Decision 75/356/ECSC of 24 April 1975, the dates '31 December 1976' and '31 December 1974' are replaced by '31 December 1977' and '31 December 1976' respectively.

Article 2

Done at Brussels, 23 December 1977.

This Decision is addressed to the Federal Republic of Germany, the French Republic and the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg.

For the Commission

Richard BURKE

Member of the Commission
