

COUNCIL REGULATION (EEC) No 3028/79
of 20 December 1979

opening, allocating and providing for the administration of a Community tariff quota for ferro-chromium containing not less than 4 % by weight of carbon falling within subheading ex 73.02 E I of the Common Customs Tariff and extending the benefit of this quota to certain imports of ferro-chromium containing a quantity of between 3 and 4 % by weight of carbon (1980)

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community, and in particular Article 28 thereof,

Having regard to the draft Regulation submitted by the Commission,

Whereas, for ferro-chromium containing not less than 4 % by weight of carbon, Community production is, to a variable degree, inadequate and producers are unable to meet the total requirements of consumer industries; whereas it is therefore in the Community's interest to suspend totally in respect of this metal the application of the Common Customs Tariff duty until 31 December 1980, within a suitable tariff quota; whereas in order to avoid disturbing the equilibrium of the market for this ferro-alloy and to ensure parallel development in sales of Community production and in supplies to meet the requirements of consumer industries, it is appropriate to fix the quota volume at the provisional level of 120 000 tonnes, covering import needs from third countries during the first few months of the year; whereas the fixing of this amount, based on conservative estimates, does not preclude future adjustment in line with changes in the situation; whereas, moreover, Member States should be free to authorize charges to be made against this volume only subject to certain conditions relating to use;

Whereas relatively limited imports of ferro-chromium containing a quantity of between 3 and 4 % by weight of carbon are foreseeable for this quota period; whereas provision should be made on a temporary basis for the extension of the benefit of the tariff quota in question to these imports, limiting it however to 20 % of the quota volume taking account of the existence of Community production;

Whereas equal and continuous access to the quota should be ensured for all Community importers and the rate of duty for the tariff quota should be applied consistently to all imports until the quota is exhausted; whereas in the light of these principles arrangements for

the utilization of the tariff quota based on an allocation among Member States would seem to be consistent with the Community nature of the quota; whereas, to correspond as closely as possible to the actual trend in the market in the product in question, allocation of the quota should be in proportion to the requirements of the Member States as calculated by reference to statistics of imports from third countries during a representative reference period and to the economic outlook for the quota period in question;

Whereas, however, since the quota is an autonomous Community tariff quota intended to cover import needs arising in the Community, it may, as an experiment, be allocated on the basis of the temporary import needs from third countries expressed by each of the Member States while assuring a certain degree of compensation for those Member States which favour Community production when obtaining supplies; whereas this system of allocation also ensures the uniform application of the Common Customs Tariff;

Whereas, to take account of future import trends for the product concerned, the quota should be divided into two instalments, the first being allocated and the second held as a reserve to cover subsequently the requirements of Member States which have used up their initial shares and any additional requirements which might arise in the other Member States; whereas, to give importers of the Member States some degree of certainty, the first instalment of the tariff quota should be fixed at a relatively high level, which in this case should be 109 600 tonnes;

Whereas initial shares may be used up at different rates; whereas to avoid disruption of supplies on this account it should be provided that any Member State which has almost used up its initial share should draw an additional share from the reserve; whereas each time its additional share is almost used up a Member State should draw a further share, and so on as many times as the reserve allows; whereas the initial and additional shares should be valid until the end of the quota period; whereas this form of administration requires close collaboration between the Member States and the Commission, which

latter must be in a position to keep account of the extent to which the quotas have been used up and to inform the Member States accordingly;

Whereas if at a given date in the quota period a considerable quantity of a Member State's initial share remains unused, it is essential that that Member State should return a significant proportion to the reserve, in order to prevent a part of the Community quota remaining unused in one Member State while it could be used in others;

Whereas, since the Kingdom of Belgium, the Kingdom of the Netherlands and the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg are united within and jointly represented by the Benelux Economic Union, any measure concerning the administration of the shares allocated to that economic union may be carried out by any one of its members,

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

Article 1

1. From 1 January to 31 December 1980 a Community tariff quota of 120 000 tonnes shall be opened in the Community for ferro-chromium containing not less than 4% by weight of carbon, falling within subheading ex 73.02 E I of the Common Customs Tariff.

2. During this period the Member States shall be authorized within the 20% limit of the quotas allocated to them or which they levy on the reserve in accordance with Articles 2 and 3 to charge against the said tariff quota, imports of ferro-chromium containing a quantity of between 3 and 4% by weight of carbon.

3. Imports of the products in question may not be charged against this tariff quota if they are already free of customs duties under other preferential tariff arrangements.

4. Within this quota, the customs tariff duty shall be totally suspended.

Article 2

1. A first instalment of 109 600 tonnes of this Community tariff quota shall be allocated among the Member States; the shares, which subject to Article 5 shall be valid until 31 December 1980, shall be as follows:

	(tonnes)
Benelux	4 350
Denmark	20

Germany	39 220
France	18 000
Ireland	10
Italy	29 000
United Kingdom	19 000

2. The second instalment of 10 400 tonnes shall constitute the reserve.

Article 3

1. If a Member State has used 90% or more of its initial share as fixed in Article 2 (1), or of that share minus any portion returned to the reserve pursuant to Article 5, it shall forthwith, by notifying the Commission, draw a second share, to the extent that the reserve so permits, equal to 10% of its initial share rounded up as necessary to the next whole number.

2. If a Member State, after exhausting its initial share, has used 90% or more of the second share drawn by it, that Member State shall forthwith, in the manner and to the extent provided in paragraph 1, draw a third share equal to 5% of its initial share rounded up as necessary to the next whole number.

3. If a Member State, after exhausting its second share, has used 90% or more of the third share drawn by it, that Member State shall, in the manner and to the extent provided in paragraph 1, draw a fourth share equal to the third.

This process shall apply until the reserve is used up.

4. By way of derogation from paragraphs 1 to 3, a Member State may draw shares lower than those specified in those paragraphs if there are grounds for believing that those specified may not be used in full. Any Member State applying this paragraph shall inform the Commission of its grounds for so doing.

Article 4

Additional shares drawn pursuant to Article 3 shall be valid until 31 December 1980.

Article 5

Member States shall, not later than 1 October 1980, return to the reserve the unused portion of their initial share which, on 15 September 1980, is in excess of 20% of the initial volume. They may return a greater portion if there are grounds for believing that it may not be used in full.

Member States shall, not later than 1 October 1980, notify the Commission of the total quantities of the products in question imported up to and including 15 September 1980 and charged against the Community quota and of any portion of their initial shares returned to the reserve.

Article 6

Member States may restrict the product in question which may be charged against their quota shares to products to be used for certain purposes.

Article 7

The Commission shall keep an account of the shares opened by the Member States pursuant to Articles 2 and 3 and shall, as soon as the information reaches it, inform each State of the extent to which the reserve has been used up.

It shall, not later than 5 October 1980, inform the Member States of the amounts still in reserve following any return of shares pursuant to Article 5.

It shall ensure that the drawing which exhausts the reserve does not exceed the balance available, and to this end shall notify the amount of that balance to the Member State making the last drawing.

Article 8

1. Member States shall take all appropriate measures to ensure that additional shares drawn pursuant to Article 3 are opened in such a way that imports may be charged without interruption against their aggregate shares of the Community tariff quota.

2. Member States shall ensure that importers of the product in question established in their territory have free access to the shares allocated to them.

3. The extent to which the Member States have used up their shares shall be determined on the basis of imports of the product in question entered with the customs authorities for free circulation.

Article 9

At the Commission's request, the Member States shall inform it of imports charged against their shares.

Article 10

The Member States and the Commission shall cooperate closely to ensure that this Regulation is complied with.

Article 11

This Regulation shall enter into force on 1 January 1980.

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

Done at Brussels, 20 December 1979.

For the Council

The President

J. TUNNEY