

COMMISSION REGULATION (EC) No 2446/96
of 18 December 1996
concerning imports of certain textile products originating in the Russian Federation

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EC) No 517/94 of 7 March 1994 on common rules for imports of textile products from certain third countries not covered by bilateral agreements, protocols or other arrangements, or by other specific Community import rules⁽¹⁾, as last amended by Commission Regulation (EC) No 1937/96⁽²⁾, and in particular Article 12 (2), in conjunction with Article 25 (5), thereof,

Whereas an Agreement in the form of an exchange of letters between the European Community and the Russian Federation concerning the renewal of the Agreement between the European Economic Community and the Russian Federation on trade in textile products initialled on 12 June 1993 as amended by the Agreement initialled on 12 April 1995 has been applied on a provisional basis since 1 January 1996, pursuant to Council Decision 96/226/EC⁽³⁾;

Whereas this Agreement expires on 31 December 1996 and negotiations between the two Parties had been held with a view to renew it;

Whereas these negotiations cannot be completed before that date;

Whereas Article 1 (2), of the Agreement stipulates that 'quantitative import restrictions shall be reintroduced in case of denunciation or non replacement of this Agreement';

Whereas Article 12 (2) of Regulation (EC) No 517/94 lays down the conditions under which quantitative limits may be established on imports into the Community of textile and clothing products originating in certain exporting countries;

Whereas the economic interests of the European Community require that in case the bilateral Agreement is not renewed the import rules which will be applicable should be such as to prevent the unlimited importation of certain textile products originating in the Russian Federation subject to quantitative limits under the Agreement;

Whereas the sensitivity of the textile and clothing sector of the European Community and the actual and potential

capacity of production of certain textile products in the Russian Federation and their exportation to the European Community require that quantitative restrictions continue to be applicable for the importation of certain textile products originating in the Russian Federation;

Whereas it is therefore necessary to introduce for a period which should not be longer than three months quantitative limits for the importation into the Community of certain textile products originating in the Russian Federation as well as for the reimportation after outward processing in the Russian Federation of certain textile products originating in the Community;

Whereas the Commission will continue to employ all efforts to complete the negotiations with the Russian Federation within these three months in order to reach a new bilateral Agreement to replace the existing Agreement before the expiry of the present Regulation; whereas therefore the quantitative restrictions introduced by this Regulation represent a temporary measure pending the resumption and conclusion of these negotiations;

Whereas given the economic situation of the Community textile and clothing industry and the development of trade on textiles and clothing products between the Community and the Russian Federation it does not appear to be necessary to reintroduce some of the existing quantitative limits;

Whereas, as far as the quantitative limits introduced for three months by this Regulation are concerned the amounts foreseen are equivalent to 25 % of those agreed for 1996 increased for an important number of categories by a significant uplift;

Whereas the importation of products shipped from the Russian Federation before the entry into force of the present Regulation is governed by the provisions of the Agreement in force in 1996 of Council Regulation (EEC) No 3030/93⁽⁴⁾, as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 2315/96⁽⁵⁾;

Whereas the reduced number of quantitative restrictions in comparison with those existing in the Agreement as well as the increased levels provided for in this Regulation are introduced on the basis that the Russian Federation will not adopt, during the validity of this Regulation,

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 67, 10. 3. 1994, p. 1.

⁽²⁾ OJ No L 255, 9. 10. 1996, p. 4.

⁽³⁾ OJ No L 81, 30. 3. 1996, p. 406.

⁽⁴⁾ OJ No L 275, 8. 11. 1993, p. 1.

⁽⁵⁾ OJ No L 314, 4. 12. 1996, p. 1.

measures in the textiles and clothing sector concerning quantitative restrictions, or increased tariffs or non-tariff barriers such as certification or other import requirements applicable to import of products originating in the Community, other than those measures in force in the Russian Federation at the date of 1 January 1996; whereas the introduction of any such measure will therefore entail a review of the provisions of this Regulation;

Whereas these measures are in conformity with the opinion expressed by the committee established by Regulation (EC) No 517/94,

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

Article 1

1. As from the date of entry into force of this Regulation imports into the Community of textile products listed in the Annex to this Regulation originating in the Russian Federation shall be subject to the quantitative limits established in that Annex.

2. As from the date of entry into force of this Regulation reimports into the Community, after outward economic processing in the Russian Federation, of textile products listed in the Annex to this Regulation originating in the Community shall be subject to the quantitative limits established in that Annex.

3. The provisions of Parts II and III of Council Regulation (EC) No 517/94 are applicable to imports referred to in this Regulation.

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

Done at Brussels, 18 December 1996.

Article 2

All quantities of products listed in the Annex to this Regulation shipped to the Community from the Russian Federation on or after 1 January 1997 and until 31 March 1997 and released for free circulation into the Community shall be deducted from the respective limits laid down in that Annex.

Article 3

The provisions of this Regulation shall be subject to review in the event that, during the period of its validity, the Russian Federation introduces measures in respect of quantitative restrictions or increased tariffs or non-tariff barriers such as certification or other import requirements applicable to imports of textile and clothing products originating in the Community, other than those measures in force in the Russian Federation at the date of 1 January 1996.

Article 4

This Regulation shall enter into force on 1 January 1997.

It is applicable until 31 March 1997.

Textiles products listed in the Annex and shipped to a Community destination before the date of entry into force of this Regulation shall be governed by the provisions in force at the time of their shipment and shall not be deducted from the respective limits laid down in the Annex.

For the Commission

Leon BRITTAN

Vice-President

ANNEX

Community quantitative limits referred to in Article 1 (1), applicable from 1 January to 31 March 1997

Category (1)	Unit	Quantity
1	tonnes	1 307
2	tonnes	3 619
2a	tonnes	278
3	tonnes	508
4	1 000 pieces	720
5	1 000 pieces	457
6	1 000 pieces	802
7	1 000 pieces	226
8	1 000 pieces	688
9	tonnes	473
20	tonnes	686
22	tonnes	368
39	tonnes	225
12	1 000 pairs	1 128
13	1 000 pieces	1 485
15	1 000 pieces	286
16	1 000 pieces	208
21	1 000 pieces	340
24	1 000 pieces	350
29	1 000 pieces	159
83	tonnes	118
33	tonnes	133
37	tonnes	455
50	tonnes	141
74	1 000 pieces	153
90	tonnes	243
115	tonnes	122
117	tonnes	409
118	tonnes	241

(1) The full description of products falling within these categories is set out in Annex I of Regulation (EC) No 517/94.

OUTWARD PROCESSING TRAFFIC

Community quantitative limits referred to in Article 1 (2), applicable from 1 January to 31 March 1997

Category (1)	Unit	Quantity
4	1 000 pieces	244
5	1 000 pieces	559
6	1 000 pieces	1 547
7	1 000 pieces	988
8	1 000 pieces	895
12	1 000 pairs	1 193
13	1 000 pieces	357
15	1 000 pieces	949
16	1 000 pieces	347
21	1 000 pieces	1 357
24	1 000 pieces	690
29	1 000 pieces	1 090
83	tonnes	125
74	1 000 pieces	250

(1) The full description of products falling within these categories is set out in Annex I of Regulation (EC) No 517/94.