

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

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EEC - EMERGENCY ACTION ON TABLE APPLES

The following communication, dated 3 April 1970, has been received from the delegation of the Commission of the European Communities.

I have the honour to advise you, for the information of the CONTRACTING PARTIES, that the Commission of the European Communities has decided, by its regulation No. 459/70 of 11 March 1970, to introduce emergency measures in respect of table apples (heading No. 08.06 A II of the Common Customs Tariff) for the period running from 1 April to 30 June 1970. These measures represent a temporary exception from the standard régime of liberalization applied by the EEC to imports of this product.

The regulation concerned provides that during the three months involved, imports of table apples into the EEC will be subject to import licences issued as a result of a decision taken by the Commission on the basis of applications submitted each week.

The use of such temporary measures is due to the fact that an emergency situation has been found to exist in the Community market for this product as a result of an abundant harvest during the current crop year, and of increased pressure of imports which threaten to intensify the disturbance of the market for the product in question and to counteract the effects of the internal measures that have been taken to restore the market situation as rapidly as possible. Indeed, applications for import certificates show that there would be a very substantial increase in the quantities imported.

In the administration of this temporary system of import licences, the Commission intends to meet the obligations deriving from the international commitments which the Community has undertaken. The Commission will see to it that, for the period of application of the safeguard measures, the level of authorized imports is in line with traditional imports.

The Commission is ready to enter into consultation with contracting parties having a substantial interest as exporters to the Community market, which might wish to examine with it the measures in question.

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