

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

L/4568/Add.3
5 April 1978

Limited Distribution

Original: English

PORTUGAL - CHANGES IN THE IMPORT REGIME

Portuguese System for 1978 of Import Quotas for some Consumer Goods

Notification by the Portuguese Delegation

1. The deterioration of the trade deficit still renders necessary, without prejudice to the future implementation of alternative measures, the maintenance on a temporary basis of measures aiming at contracting imports.
2. The first Constitutional Government deemed it convenient to prolong, as from 1 January 1978 and with some modifications, the import quota system for less essential consumer goods, established by Government Order No. 99-A/77.
3. However, owing to the governmental crisis which started at the beginning of last December, the first Constitutional Government, acting as caretaker, decided by Government Order No. 807/77 of 31 December 1977^{1/}, to prolong the import quota system for a period of three months only, leaving the question of the need to continue the application of this measure for the rest of the year, or its abolition and replacement by alternative measures, open to the new Government. Therefore, the quotas set out in Government Order No. 807/77 are equivalent to one quarter of the quotas that should have been fixed for the whole of the year 1978.
4. The provisions for the implementation of the present import quota system follow, as a rule, the same lines as the quota system applied in 1977. Annex I contains an English text of the list attached to Government Order No. 807/77.
5. Annex II to this notification contains a table showing the development of total imports of consumer goods now subject to the import quota system in 1975, 1976 and 1977, including indication of the main origin markets.

^{1/} Copies are available in the secretariat upon request.

ANNEX I

Portuguese System of Import Quotas
for some Consumer Goods

Government Order No. 807/77, of 31 December 1977

(Non-Official Translation)

The persistence during last year of difficulties at the external payments level and their aggravation during this year, have rendered necessary the maintenance of the import restrictive measures in order to attain significant results in the contraction of imports.

Thus, it is deemed essential to maintain the general features of the import quota system established for 1977 by Government Order No. 99-A/77 of 28 February 1977.

Studies carried out by experts from several governmental bodies, with the participation of representatives of interested economic sectors, led to the calculation of import quotas to be applied during the whole year of 1978. Nevertheless, due to the ethics of politics, the Government decided to establish an import quota system valid only for the first three months of 1978, which is considered the minimum period possible from the technical point of view. The quotas fixed correspond to a quarter of the amounts which should have been fixed for the whole year. This procedure will allow the next Government, if it deems necessary, to introduce a system of import quotas for a further period.

Bearing in mind the above-mentioned considerations and under the terms of Decree Law No. 720-A/76, of 9 October 1976, the following rules are hereby established:

Paragraph 1

During the first three months of 1978 imports of goods on the list at Annex will be subject to import quotas and may not exceed the amounts set out in that list for each product or group of products.

Paragraph 2

The Directorate General of Foreign Trade (Direcção-Geral do Comércio Externo), or other entities given powers for the granting of import licences, are empowered to allocate the import quotas among importers.

Paragraph 3

Sub-paragraph 1: Except when the importers are new or for reasons concerning public supply, the criterion to be used as the basis of the allocation of quotas is the average of imports of each importer in 1975 and 1976, the freedom of choice as to the origin of the goods to be imported being, however, maintained.

Sub-paragraph 2: Evidence on the level of imports reached during that period, to be submitted to the departments mentioned in paragraph 2 above, will have to be made by means of proper customs clearance forms.

Sub-paragraph 3: Evidence on the levels of imports during 1975 and 1976, to be presented by each importer, shall not be required whenever the proper customs clearance forms have already been presented to the entities referred to in paragraph 2 above.

Sub-paragraph 4: An amount of 10 per cent of the import quota fixed for each product or group of products shall be set apart for allocation to importers who, during 1975, 1976 and 1977, have not imported products included in the list at Annex. Importers applying for this quota will have to prove to the entities referred to in paragraph 2 above that they are not outsiders in the import branch.

Sub-paragraph 5: If at the end of the period of enforcement of this import quota system there is a remainder of the quotas set apart, the remaining amount in each quota shall be allocated to other importers on the basis of the criterion established in sub-paragraph 1 above.

Paragraph 4

Beyond the import quotas set out in the list at Annex, authorization may be granted, by a previous joint enactment from the Ministers of Industry and Technology and Trade and Tourism, for additional imports the value of which may not exceed the national value added to Portuguese exports to the foreign manufacturer of the product which is to be imported and which is to be used by that foreign manufacturer for industrial purposes.

Paragraph 5

For the purposes of the preceding Article, the necessary evidence of the export value shall be submitted to the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (Direcção-Geral do Comércio Externo).

Paragraph 6

Any doubtful cases arising under this Order will be settled by means of a joint enactment from the Ministers of Planning and Economic Co-ordination, Finance, Trade and Tourism and, whenever the nature of cases requires it, from the Minister of Industry and Technology.

ANNEX TO GOVERNMENT ORDER NO. 807/77

List of Goods to which Import Quotas Will Apply
Until 31 March 1978^{1/}

08.01	Dates, bananas, coconuts, Brazil nuts, cashewnuts, pineapples, avocados, mangoes, guavas and mango-steens, fresh or dried, shelled or not	20,000
09.01	Coffee, whether or not roasted or free of caffeine; coffee husks and skins; coffee substitutes containing coffee in any proportion	250,000
39.07.03/ 04/ 05	Articles of materials of the kinds described in heading Nos. 39.01 to 39.06: floor coverings; articles not specified, whether or not printed	25,000
73.36	Stoves (including stoves with subsidiary boilers for central heating), ranges, cookers, grates, fires and other space heaters, gas-rings, plate warmers with burners, wash boilers with grates or other heating elements, and similar equipment of a kind used for domestic purposes, not electrically operated and parts thereof, of iron or steel	10,000
84.15.02	Refrigerators and refrigerating equipment (electrical or other): cabinets and other furniture imported with their respective refrigerating equipment, weighing up to 200 kgs. each	75,000
84.17.01	Instantaneous or storage water heaters, of a kind used for domestic purposes	10,000

^{1/} Nomenclature used for some of the tariff headings included in the present list take into account the new amendments introduced as from 1 January 1978 into the nomenclature of the Portuguese Customs Tariff and, thus, differ from the nomenclature used in Government Order No. 807/77. The mentioned amendments to be introduced in the nomenclature of the attached list of Government Order No. 807/77 will soon be published in the Official Gazette.

84.19.01	Dish-washing and drying machines	15,000
ex 84.40.03	Domestic washing machines	70,000
84.41.01	Sewing machines for domestic use	11,250
85.03.01	Primary cells and primary batteries, dry	7,500
ex 85.06	Vacuum cleaners with self-contained electric motor	10,000
ex 85.06	Other electro-mechanical domestic appliances, with self-contained electric motor	50,000
85.12.01	Electric instantaneous or storage water heaters and immersion heaters; electric soil heating apparatus and electric space heating apparatus; electric hair dressing appliances (such as, hair dryers, hair curlers, curling tong heaters) and electric smoothing irons; electro-thermic domestic appliances; electric heating resistors other than those included in No. 85.24: water heaters and space heaters	7,500
85.12.06	Ditto, not specified apparatus	10,000
85.15.01	Radio-broadcasting reception apparatus	30,000
85.15.02	Television reception apparatus	12,500
87.09.01/03/ and 87.10	Motorcycles and cycles fitted with an auxiliary motor (excluding motorcycles and cycles with side-cars or fitted with bodies for fire brigades)	10,000
92.11.02	Gramophones, dictating machines and other sound recorders and reproducers, including record-players and tape decks, with or without sound-heads; television image and sound recorders and reproducers, magnetic: articles not specified	12,500
92.12.01	Sound recording media prepared for recording: wires, strips and tapes	10,000

93.04/05	Firearms (not mentioned in Nos. 93.02 and 93.03), including those using gunpowder such as very light pistols, pistols and revolvers for firing blank ammunition only, line-throwing guns and the like; arms of other descriptions, including air, spring and similar pistols, rifles and guns	12,500
94.01/03	Chairs and other seats whether or not convertible into beds, and parts thereof; other furniture and parts thereof	12,500
97.01/02	Wheeled toys designed to be ridden by children (such as toy bicycles and tricycles and pedal motor cars): dolls' prams and dolls' push chairs; dolls	5,000
97.03	Other toys, working models of a kind used for recreational purposes	22,500

ANNEX II

Quota System for some Consumer Goods

	(10 ³ escudos)					
	1975		1976		1977 ^{1/}	
	Total value	Structure Total Quota	Total value	Structure Total Quota	Total value	Structure Total Quota
TOTAL IMPORT	99,470,040		130,812,619		189,593,180	
TOTAL (QUOTA)	4,579,538	4.70 100.00	4.00	100.00	2.77	100.00
EEC (9)						
Germany	487,718	0.49 10.42	602,748	0.46 11.51	441,864	0.23 8.39
Belgium-Luxembourg	65,864	0.07 1.41	70,892	0.05 1.35	65,373	0.03 1.24
France	281,569	0.28 6.01	275,217	0.21 5.26	184,735	0.09 3.51
Holland	233,772	0.24 4.99	233,114	0.18 4.45	127,795	0.07 2.43
Italy	787,332	0.79 16.82	1,061,456	0.81 20.28	869,737	0.46 16.53
Denmark	46,638	0.05 0.99	82,881	0.06 1.58	92,932	0.05 1.77
United Kingdom	402,329	0.40 8.60	523,059	0.40 9.99	557,082	0.30 16.78
Ireland	1,832	0.002 0.04	2,758	0.002 0.05	2,021	0.001 0.04
Total EEC	2,307,074	2.31 49.30	2,703,081	2.07 51.65	2,351,146	1.24 44.57
EFTA						
Austria	193,510	0.19 4.13	54,963	0.04 1.05	42,919	0.02 0.82
Finland	7,693	0.008 0.16	5,955	0.004 0.11	4,270	0.002 0.08
Norway	158,543	0.16 3.39	5,586	0.004 0.11	3,258	0.002 0.06
Sweden	30,087	0.03 0.64	26,081	0.02 0.50	15,103	0.008 0.29
Switzerland	38,835	0.04 0.83	44,221	0.03 0.84	18,270	0.009 0.35
Iceland	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total EFTA	274,832	0.26 5.87	126,371	0.10 2.41	83,820	0.04 1.59
Spain	427,858	0.43 9.14	556,295	0.42 10.63	289,528	0.15 5.50
United States	25,387	0.03 0.54	27,202	0.52 0.52	30,594	0.02 0.58
Japan	296,559	0.30 6.34	258,754	0.20 4.94	153,297	0.08 2.91
Rest of the world	1,347,757	1.35 28.81	1,562,080	1.19 29.85	2,354,777	1.24 44.75

^{1/} Provisional data I.M.E.