

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON

TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

L/6179/Add.4

2 February 1988

Limited Distribution

Original: Spanish

ARTICLE XIX - ACTION BY THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES (SPAIN)

Certain Steel Products

Extension of Time-Limit

The following communication, dated 15 January 1988, has been received from the Commission of the European Communities.

In connection with the import of certain steel products on which the Spanish authorities were applying measures limiting imports in pursuance of Article XIX of the General Agreement (document L/6179), and since there has been no change on the circumstances which led to the adoption of those measures, the Spanish authorities have decided to extend the measures throughout the year 1988.

This decision was announced in Circular No. 9 of the Office of the Secretary of State for Trade, published in the Spanish Official Journal of 30 December 1987. As indicated therein, and in accordance with Article XIX of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, there will be an opportunity to hold new consultations on the matter.

A copy of the decision is attached.

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BOE (Spanish Official Journal), Wednesday, 30 December 1987.

28634 CIRCULAR No. 9, of 21 December 1987, of the Office of the Secretary of State for Trade concerning the application of national measures for the protection of the domestic steel market.

Sir,

In view of the injury which imports of certain steel products during 1986 had been causing to the domestic output of those products, the Spanish Government proposed - and the Commission agreed by its decision of 17 December 1986 - that the Commission should authorize the extension to the current year, 1987, of the period of application of the safeguard measures applied in 1986 to imports of some of these products of Community origin or provenance;

Considering that there was a threat that the above-mentioned injury would continue during 1987, the Spanish Government, in a letter addressed to the Commission on 27 February last, requested the possible extension of import restrictions to third countries, under the safeguard clause.

Not having received a positive reply from the Commission, in accordance with the existing rule, within twelve working days of the request, and pursuant to Commission Recommendation 77/328/ECSC of 15 April 1977, and in particular to the provisions of Article 4.2 thereof, the Spanish Government decided to take a number of measures at national level to ensure the necessary protection for the steel sector; accordingly, Circular No. 8, dated 30 March 1987, was issued by the Office of the Secretary for State and Trade.

Thereafter, on 4 December 1987, in view of the fact that market conditions had not changed substantially, the Spanish Government reiterated its request for the application of national protective measures to the steel market. Since the time limits required under the relevant Recommendation have expired, the Office of the Secretary of State has seen fit to issue the following instructions:

Without prejudice to the agreements concluded by the Community on steel products, nor to the countries already covered by autonomous quotas in pursuance of Commission Recommendation 77/328/ECSC, imports of the following categories of products (Ia, Ib, Ic, II and IV) originating in or coming from third countries, shall be limited during 1988 to the quantities effectively exported in the year 1987 or the average figure for exports in the past three years, whichever is the greater.

In accordance with Article XIX of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, supplying countries will have an opportunity to hold consultations in order to determine the quantities to be imported by Spain in 1988.