COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

COM(91) 451 final

Brussels, 15 November 1991

Proposal for a

COUNCIL REGULATION (EEC)

amending Regulation (EEC) No 2658/87
on the tariff and statistical nomenclature
on the Common Customs Tariff

(presented by the Commission)

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

In the framework of the multilateral GATT negotiations on the introduction of the Harmonized System, the customs duty on seaweeds was increased.

This increase in customs duties on seaweeds used for industrial purposes (perfumery, pharmacy and food for human consumption) proved disadvantageous to Community economic operators.

Consequently, since 1 March 1988 the duty on seaweeds and other algae for the processing industry, other than for the production of animal fodder has been suspended (OJ No L 51 of 25 February 1988).

In addition, since the amount of seaweed imported for the production of animal fodder is very small, 2% protection is no longer justified.

It therefore seems advisable, while maintaining the balance of concessions and obligations under the GATT, to incorporate the suspended rate (exemption) into the Common Customs Tariff by reducing the autonomous rate of duty to this level.

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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 proposal from the Commission,

Whereas during the GATT negotiations on the introduction of the Harmonized System, customs duties on the import of seaweeds were increased;

Whereas this increase in customs duties is proving disadvantageous to economic operators; whereas it is therefore expedient to apply the customs duties in force prior to the negotiations;

Whereas the balance of concessions and obligations under the GATT should not, however, be called into question;

Whereas it is expedient to amend the autonomous customs duties applied to seaweeds; whereas therefore Council Regulation (EEC) No 2658/87,[1] as last amended by Regulation (EEC) No .../..,[2] should be amended accordingly,

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1 OJ No L 256, 7.9.1987, p.1.
2 OJ No L

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

Article 1

1. The Combined Nomenclature attached to Regulation (EEC) No 2658/87 is hereby amended in accordance with the Annex.

2. The amendments to Combined Nomenclature subheadings provided for in this Regulation shall be applied as Taric subdivisions until their insertion in the Combined Nomenclature under the conditions laid down in Article 12 of Regulation (EEC) No 2658/89.

Article 2

This Regulation shall enter into force on the third day following that of its publication in the Official Journal of the European Communities.

It shall apply from 1 January 1992.

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

Done at Brussels,

For the Council

The President

ANNEX

CN code	Description	Rate of duty		Supplementary unit
		autonomous (%)	conventional (%)	
1	2	3	4	5
1212 1212 10 to 1212 10 99	(unchanged)			
1212 20 00	- seaweeds	Free	2	-
1212 30 00 to 1212 99 90	(unchanged)			

Taric code 1992: 1212 20 00 * 00

ISSN 0254-1475

COM(91) 451 final

DOCUMENTS

EN **02**

Catalogue number : CB-CO-91-498-EN-C

ISBN 92-77-77392-8

Office for Official Publications of the European Communities
L-2985 Luxembourg