

Whereas, to take account of possible import trends for the products in question, the quota volumes should be divided into two instalments, the first being allocated and the second held as a reserve to cover any subsequent requirements of Member States which have used up their initial share; whereas, to give importers some degree of certainty, the first instalment of the Community tariff quotas should be fixed at a fairly high level, which in this case could be respectively 5 718, 18 107 and 2 900 tonnes;

Whereas initial shares may be used at different rates; whereas to avoid disruption of supplies on this account it should be provided that any Member State which has almost used up its initial share should draw an additional share from the reserve; whereas each time its additional share is almost used up a Member State should draw a further share and so on as many times as the reserve allows; whereas, bearing in mind the sensitive nature of the fisheries market in the United Kingdom, that market should not be laid open to too great a pressure brought about by too high a level of imports from third countries; whereas, therefore, without prejudice to any arrangements to be decided upon for the future, the United Kingdom should be excluded from the obligation to draw further shares from certain of the reserves; whereas the initial and additional shares should be valid until the end of the quota period; whereas this form of administration requires close collaboration between the Member States and the Commission, which must be in a position to keep account of the extent to which the quotas have been used up and to inform the Member States accordingly;

Whereas, if at a given date in the quota period a considerable quantity of a Member State's share remains unused, it is essential that such State should return a significant proportion thereof to the reserve, in order to prevent a part of the Community tariff quota from remaining unused in one Member State while it could be used in others; whereas, however, as regards the United Kingdom, any return to some of the reserves may be effected only up to the limit of the quantities necessary to satisfy the real needs of other Member States that cannot be met by the mechanisms which are directly applicable to them;

Whereas, since the Kingdom of Belgium, the Kingdom of the Netherlands and the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg are united within and jointly represented by the Benelux Economic Union, any measure concerning the administration of the shares allocated to that economic union may be carried out by any one of its members,

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

*Article 1*

1. From 1 January to 31 December 1984, a Community tariff quota of 6 000 tonnes shall be opened with a duty of 3,7 % for round frozen redfish (*Sebastes spp*) and round frozen cod (*Gadus morhua*), falling within subheadings ex 03.01 B 1 f) 2 and ex 03.01 B 1 h) 2 of the Common Customs Tariff, intended to undergo one of the operations authorized under paragraph 4.

2. From 1 January to 31 December 1984, a Community tariff quota of 19 000 tonnes with a duty of 4 % shall be opened for frozen cod (*Gadus morhua*) fillets falling within subheading ex 03.01 B II b) 1 of the Common Customs Tariff, intended to undergo one of the operations authorized under paragraph 4.

3. From 1 January to 31 December 1984, a Community tariff quota of 4 500 tonnes with a duty of 10 % shall be opened for herring flaps, prepared or preserved in vinegar, presented in packings of a net capacity of 10 kilograms or more, falling within subheading ex 16.04 C II of the Common Customs Tariff.

4. Without prejudice to paragraph 5, the preferential arrangements shown in paragraphs 1 and 2 shall apply to fish intended to undergo any operation, unless they are intended to undergo exclusively one or more of the following treatments:

- cleaning, gutting, heading, tailing,
- cutting (excluding filleting and cutting up frozen blocks),
- sampling, sorting,
- labelling,
- packing,
- chilling,
- freezing,
- deep-freezing,
- thawing, separation.

The preferential arrangements shall not apply to products intended to undergo an operation which qualifies for the grant of the benefit of the quota but which is carried out at retail or catering level. The products referred to in paragraph 2, which are presented in individual fillets and in immediate packings of a net capacity of four kilograms or more shall be considered to fulfil the conditions shown in the present paragraph.