

Transitional Provisions

1. The dismantling of tariffs against the products of other member states and establishment of the Common External Tariff (CET) was to be carried out in small steps over a transitional period of 12 years.² There was also provision to extend the transitional period to 15 years or to adjust tariffs more rapidly if circumstances permitted. A schedule was also laid down for abolishing QRs over the transitional period.

2. If the reduction of internal tariffs gave rise to "Any special problems", the Council of Ministers of the Community was to settle them by directives based on proposals of the Commission. (Article 14(5)).

3. The rules for tariff reductions also applied to duties of a fiscal nature; but if the Commission found that substitution of an internal tax for a fiscal duty caused serious difficulties, it was empowered in the first year of the Community to authorize the retention of the duty for as long as six years. (Article 17(4))

4. In the event of injury caused by dumping, the Commission was to recommend the cessation of this practice and, if the situation continued, was to authorize the injured country to take appropriate protective action. Moreover, in order to discourage dumping, member states were required to readmit, free of duties or quantitative restrictions, any goods exported to other members. (Article 91)

5. The Commission was given the power to authorize protective measures in the event of discrimination by state monopolies of a commercial nature. (Article 37)

6. At the special request of France, the Commission was given the power to authorize member states to take safeguard measures in the event that industries were affected in equalities in overtime pay. (Protocol relating to certain provisions of concern to France, Part II)

7. A general safeguard clause (Article 226), which turned out to be the most important, provided that a member state might ask the Commission to authorize relief measures if there were "serious difficulties which are likely to persist in any sector of economic activity or difficulties which may seriously impair the economic situation in any region". The Commission was to determine the measures to be taken, which might include derogations from the Treaty. The latter were however to be limited in extent and duration, to what was strictly necessary to restore the situation and adapt the sector concerned. Priority was to be given to measures which would least disturb the functioning of the common market.