Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/1369 of 29 September 2020 amending Annex I to Council Regulation (EEC) No 2658/87 on the tariff and statistical nomenclature and on the Common Customs Tariff

COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING REGULATION (EU) 2020/1369

of 29 September 2020

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

THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EEC) No 2658/87 of 23 July 1987 on the tariff and statistical nomenclature and on the Common Customs Tariff[(1)], and in particular Article 9(1)(a) thereof,

Whereas:

(1) Regulation (EEC) No 2658/87 establishes a goods nomenclature (hereinafter referred to as the 'Combined Nomenclature' or 'CN') to meet, at one and the same time, the requirements of the Common Customs Tariff, the external trade statistics of the Union, and other Union policies concerning the importation or exportation of goods.

(2) That Regulation also establishes an Integrated Tariff of the European Union (hereinafter referred to as the 'TARIC'), which meets the requirements of the Common Customs Tariff, external trade statistics, the commercial, agricultural and other Union policies concerning the importation or exportation of goods.

(3) In order for the Union to monitor statistics related solely to the importation of specific goods, the creation of statistical subheadings in TARIC is the most appropriate tool; such TARIC statistical codes are laid down in Annex 10 'Statistical TARIC codes' of Part Three (Tariff Annexes) of Annex I to Regulation (EEC) No 2658/87.

(4) The COVID-19 pandemic situation is ongoing in the Union and, therefore, the demand for certain medical goods in the Member States, in particular protective face masks, is high and imports of such goods brings additional challenges to the customs authorities.

(5) The increasing use of and demand for protective face masks in the Union is significant in the current situation as Member States are fighting against the spread of COVID-19 and its importance will likely remain high into the future.

(6) In order to facilitate and harmonise the customs controls in the Member States at Union level, it is appropriate to create additional TARIC subheadings corresponding to a higher level of detail for different protective face masks, in accordance with their filtering capacities. These additional subheadings would allow to faster distinguish the products concerned from others under the same subheading, thus mitigating the impact of possible delays in the supply chain during the pandemic.

(7) In addition, such additional TARIC subheadings should be created in order to ensure better monitoring of the trade flows of these protective face masks.

(8) Such additional TARIC subheadings would also facilitate the implementation by Member States of Commission Decision (EU) 2020/491[(2)]. As protective face masks are amongst the most imported products, their specific identification in the TARIC would allow for a quicker declaration process by distinguishing such products from other products currently classified under the same subheading.

(9) Annex 10 in Part Three of Annex I to Regulation (EEC) No 2658/87 should therefore be amended accordingly.

(10) In order for the customs authorities, which are implementing Commission Decision (EU) 2020/491, to benefit from this measure as soon as possible and to facilitate the fast supply chain of such products, this Regulation should therefore enter into force as a matter of urgency.

(11) The measures provided for in this Regulation are in accordance with the opinion of the Customs Code Committee,

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

Article 1

Annex I to Regulation (EEC) No 2658/87 is amended as set out in the Annex to this Regulation.

Article 2

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

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

Done at Brussels, 29 September 2020.

For the Commission,

On behalf of the President,

Gerassimos THOMAS

Director-General

Directorate-General for Taxation and Customs Union