COMMISSION REGULATION (EC) No 661/2004

of 7 April 2004

initiating an investigation concerning the possible circumvention of anti-dumping measures imposed by Council Regulation (EC) No 769/2002 on imports of coumarin originating in the People's Republic of China by imports of coumarin consigned from India and from Thailand, whether declared as originating in India or Thailand or not, and making such imports subject to registration

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EC) No 384/96 of 22 December 1995 on protection against dumped imports from countries not members of the European Community [1] (the basic Regulation), and in particular Articles 13(3) and 14(5) thereof,

After having consulted the Advisory Committee,

Whereas:

A. **REQUEST**

(1) The Commission has received a request, pursuant to Article 13(3) of the basic Regulation, to investigate the possible circumvention of the anti-dumping measures imposed on imports of coumarin originating in the People's Republic of China.

(2) The request was lodged on 24 February 2004 by the European Chemical Industry Council (CEFIC) on behalf of the sole producer representing 100 % of the Community production of coumarin.

B. **PRODUCT**

(3) The product concerned by the possible circumvention is coumarin, normally declared under CN code ex 2932 21 00 (the product concerned) originating in the People's Republic of China. This CN code is given for information only.

(4) The product under investigation is coumarin consigned from India and from Thailand (the product under investigation) normally declared under the same CN code as the product concerned originating in the People's Republic of China.

C. **EXISTING MEASURES**

(5) The measures currently in force and possibly being circumvented are anti-dumping measures imposed by Council Regulation (EC) No 769/2002 [2].

D. **GROUNDS**

(6) The request contains sufficient *prima facie* evidence that the anti-dumping measures on imports of coumarin originating in the People's Republic of China are being circumvented by means of transhipment via India and via Thailand.

(7) The evidence available is as follows:

The request shows that a significant change in the pattern of trade involving exports from the People's Republic of China, India and Thailand to the Community has taken place following the imposition of measures on imports of coumarin originating in the People's Republic of China, and that there appears to be insufficient due cause or justification other than the imposition of the duty for such a change. This change in the pattern of trade appears to stem from the transhipment of coumarin originating in the People's Republic of China via India and via Thailand.

Furthermore, the request contains sufficient *prima facie* evidence that the remedial effects of the existing anti-dumping measures on imports of coumarin originating in the People's Republic of China are being undermined both in terms of quantity and price. Significant volumes of imports of the product concerned from India and Thailand appear to have replaced imports of coumarin originating in the People's Republic of China. In addition, there is sufficient evidence that this increase in imports is made at prices well below the non-injurious price established in the investigation that led to the existing measures.

Finally, the request contains sufficient *prima facie* evidence that the prices of the product under investigation are dumped in relation to the normal value previously established for coumarin originating in the People's Republic of China.

[1] OJ L 56, 6.3.1996, p. 1. Regulation as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 461/2004 (OJ L 77, 13.3.2004, p. 12).

[2] OJ L 123, 9.5.2002, p. 1. Regulation as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 1854/2003 (OJ L 272, 23.10.2003, p. 1).

Should circumvention practices via India or via Thailand covered by Article 13 of the basic Regulation, other than transhipment, be identified in the course of the investigation, the investigation may cover these practices also.

E. **PROCEDURE**

(8) In the light of the above, the Commission has concluded that sufficient evidence exists to justify the initiation of an investigation pursuant to Article 13 of the basic Regulation and to make imports of coumarin consigned from India and from Thailand, whether declared as originating in India or Thailand or not, subject to registration, in accordance with Article 14(5) of the basic Regulation.

(a) *Questionnaires*

(9) In order to obtain the information it deems necessary for its investigation, the Commission will send questionnaires to the exporters/producers and to the associations of exporters/producers in India and Thailand, to the exporters/producers and to the associations of exporters/producers in the People's Republic of China, to the importers and to the associations of importers in the Community which cooperated in the investigation that led to the existing measures or which are listed in the request, and to the authorities of the People's Republic of China, India and Thailand. Information, as appropriate, may also be sought from the Community industry.

(10) In any event all interested parties should contact the Commission forthwith, but not later than the time limit set in Article 3 of this Regulation, in order to find out whether they are listed in the request and, if necessary, request a questionnaire within the time limit set in Article 3(1) of this Regulation, given that the time limit set in Article 3(2) of this Regulation applies to all interested parties.

(11) The authorities of the People's Republic of China, India and Thailand will be notified of the initiation of the investigation.

(b) *Collection of information and holding of hearings*

(12) All interested parties are hereby invited to make their views known in writing and to provide supporting evidence. Furthermore, the Commission may hear interested parties, provided that they make a request in writing and show that there are particular reasons why they should be heard.

(c) *Exemption of registration of imports or measures*

(13) Since the possible circumvention of the measures in force takes place outside the Community, exemptions may be granted, in accordance with Article 13(4) of the basic Regulation, to producers of the product concerned that can show that they are not related to any producer subject to the measures and that are found not to be engaged in circumvention practices as defined in Article 13(1) and (2) of the basic Regulation. Producers wishing to obtain an exemption should submit a request duly supported by evidence within the time limits indicated in Article 3(3) of this Regulation.

F. **REGISTRATION**

(14) Pursuant to Article 14(5) of the basic Regulation, imports of the product under investigation should be made subject to registration in order to ensure that, should the investigation result in findings of circumvention, anti-dumping duties of an appropriate amount can be levied retroactively from the date of registration of coumarin consigned from India and from Thailand.

G. **TIME LIMITS**

(15) In the interest of sound administration, time limits should be stated within which:

— interested parties may make themselves known to the Commission, present their views in writing and submit questionnaire replies or any other information to be taken into account during the investigation,

— producers in India and in Thailand may request exemption from registration of imports or measures,

— interested parties may make a written request to be heard by the Commission.

(16) Attention is drawn to the fact that the exercise of most procedural rights set out in the basic Regulation depends on the party's making itself known within the time limits mentioned in Article 3 of this Regulation.