I

(Acts whose publication is obligatory)

COUNCIL REGULATION (EC) No 1445/2003

of 21 January 2003

concerning the export of certain steel products from Romania to the Community for the period from the date of entry into force of this Regulation to the date of accession by Romania to the European Union (extension of the double-checking system)

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community, and in particular Article 133 thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the Commission,

Whereas:

(1) The Europe Agreement establishing an association between the European Communities and their Member States, of the one part, and Romania, of the other part [1], entered into force on 1 February 1995.

(2) The Parties have agreed, by Association Council Decision No 1/2003 [2], to extend the double-checking system reintroduced by Decision No 3/2002 [3] for the period from the date of entry into force of this Regulation to the date of accession by Romania to the European Union.

(3) It is consequently necessary to extend the Community implementing legislation introduced by Council Regulation (EC) No 1499/2002 of 20 June 2002, concerning the export of certain steel products from Romania to the Community for the period from 1 July to 31 December 2002 (double-checking system) [4],

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

Article 1

Regulation (EC) No 1499/2002 shall continue to apply for the period from the date of entry into force of this Regulation to the date of accession by Romania to the European Union, in accordance with the provisions of Decision No 1/2003 of the Association Council between the European Communities and their Member States, of the one part, and Romania, of the other part.

Article 2

Regulation (EC) No 1499/2002 shall in consequence be amended as follows:

1. In the title, preamble and Article 1(1) of the Regulation, references to the period '1 July to 31 December 2002' shall be replaced by references to '25 August 2003 to the date of accession by Romania to the European Union'.

2. Annex IV to that Regulation shall be replaced by the text contained in the Annex to this Regulation.

Article 3

Goods shipped to the Community from 1 January 2003 to the date of entry into force of this Regulation shall be excluded from the scope of this Regulation.

Article 4

This Regulation shall enter into force on the 10th day following that of its publication in the *Official Journal of the European Union*.

[1] OJ L 357, 31.12.1994, p. 2.
[2] See page 31 of this Official Journal.
[3] OJ L 227, 23.8.2002, p. 38.
[4] OJ L 227, 23.8.2002, p. 1.

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

Done at Brussels, 21 January 2003.

For the Council
The President
N. CHRISTODOULAKIS