

Cases 41-44/70 International Fruit Company and others v Commission of the European Communities [1971]

Facts: An EU measure was adopted which set a cap on imports of dessert apples from non-EU states for a certain period of time. Under this measure, importers required a licence. The Commission had refused the applicants the licence to import their apples.

Held: The applicants had standing as they were directly and individually concerned. The decision on the grant of import licences was a matter for the Commission, and it alone had the competence to assess the economic situation in light of which the grant of a licence must be justified. As there was no discretion left to the Member States on whether to grant a licence or not, the measure directly affected the legal position of the parties concerned.