

**GENERAL AGREEMENT ON
TARIFFS AND TRADE**

GATT
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TARIFF CONFERENCE - 1956

NEGOTIATION BY THE HIGH AUTHORITY OF THE
EUROPEAN COAL AND STEEL COMMUNITY
ON BEHALF OF MEMBER STATES

The following communication, dated 16 January, has been received from the Government of Belgium, and more or less identical letters from France and the Federal Republic of Germany:

"With reference to paragraph 17 of the Report of the Working Party on the Third Annual Report submitted by the Member States of the European Coal and Steel Community to the CONTRACTING PARTIES, which was approved in plenary session of the CONTRACTING PARTIES, I have the honour to inform you that I have sent the following communication to the Austrian Embassy in Brussels:

'The Ministry for Foreign Affairs and External Trade previously informed the Austrian Embassy in Brussels that the Austrian proposal on the opening of tariff negotiations concerning the goods covered by the Treaty instituting the European Coal and Steel Community was being considered and that consultations between the High Authority and the governments of the Member States of the Community would take place.

'As a result of such consultations the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and External Trade is now in a position to inform the Austrian Embassy that the Belgian Government and the governments of the other Member States of the Community are prepared to enter into negotiations within the general framework of the GATT Tariff Conference regarding the types of special steels included in the common market. The High Authority will act on behalf of the six Member States of the Community for the conduct of such negotiations.'

"In accordance with the powers which it has received, the High Authority will submit lists of requests and lists of offers.

"The Belgian Government therefore requests the CONTRACTING PARTIES to the General Agreement to take the necessary steps to grant the High Authority the same facilities as other governments participating in the Conference, and in particular to authorize the High Authority to be represented on the Tariff Negotiations Committee referred to in Article 7 of the Rules and Procedures of the Conference."

A separate communication, dated 13 January, was received from the High Authority containing the following additional information concerning these negotiations.

"In agreement with the governments of the Member States of the European Coal and Steel Community, the High Authority intends to submit at the opening of the negotiations a separate list of offers concerning the items in respect of which it is empowered to negotiate. It reserves the right to submit request lists concerning the same items."