

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

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DEVELOPMENTS RELEVANT TO THE OPERATION OF PART IV

Note by the Secretariat

Addendum

The following notification has been received from the Government of Austria in reply to GATT/AIR/750.

ad Article XXXVII: 1(a)

Austria has continued to endeavour to improve access of imports from developing countries into the Austrian market, both for industrial and for agricultural products.

In the tariff sector the export interests of developing countries have been taken into account to the largest possible extent (see document L/2862/Rev.1/Add.3).

In addition, in July 1969 the tariff rate for cocoa-butter has been reduced from 16 per cent to 8 per cent, hereby offering further export possibilities to the developing countries.

As far as quantitative restrictions are concerned, Austria has already practically liberalized all imports from the developing countries in the industrial sector and it has taken effective measures in the agricultural sector (see document COM.TD/60/Add.3). In the agricultural sector e.g. by liberalizing imports of dead poultry a further step has been made in removing existing import restrictions.

ad Article XXXVII: 1(b) and (c)(i)

In compliance with the above mentioned Article, Austria has refrained from introducing or increasing customs duties or quantitative restrictions since the last Austrian notification was tabled (see document COM.TD/60/Add.3).

ad Article XXXVII: 3(a)

The Federal Government of Austria could not undertake measures for influencing resale prices since the Austrian legislation does not provide for respective authority now as before.

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ad Article XXXVII: 3(b)

As far as measures designed to provide greater scope for the development of imports from developing countries are concerned, Austria has already notified relevant informations (see document COM.TD/W/92/Add.5).

In this context it might be mentioned only that e.g. in the cotton textile sector, the Austrian cotton-textile industry has closed down enterprises and reduced the number of spindles and looms respectively, hereby substantially contributing to the settlement of the international problem of capacity in the cotton textile industry. Improved conditions for sales in the Austrian market have already led to an increase of imports of cotton textiles from the developing countries.

In order to promote trade of developing countries, Austria continues to co-operate actively in the work of the UNCTAD/GATT International Trade Centre e.g. by making available relevant information or by offering experts at its own expense. The offices, which the Austrian Federal Chamber of Commerce has established in most of the developing countries all over the world are inter alia charged with the task of informing exporters of the developing countries on export possibilities in the Austrian market, hereby promoting the business relations between traders in the developing countries and Austrian prospective customers.

The Austrian authorities regularly carry out training courses for customs' officers from developing countries.

Moreover the Austrian Government is prepared to participate in the programme of training courses which are held by the GATT secretariat and it is prepared to receive participants of these courses in Austria in order to show the administrative machinery and the managing of enterprises involved in foreign trade.

Austria actively participates in the preparation of a system of tariff preferences. Such a system would improve the export possibilities of developing countries.

Recognizing that prices for commodities are of decisive importance in regard to the balance-of-payments situation of the developing countries and form an important factor in their developing plans, Austria is participating in international commodity agreements aimed at stabilizing prices and at increasing the export earnings of the developing countries.