

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

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ACTION BY GOVERNMENTS RELEVANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF PART IV AND OPERATION OF THE ENABLING CLAUSE

In response to GATT/AIR/1651 of 7 August 1980, contracting parties listed below have transmitted to the secretariat the following information in relation to the implementation of Part IV and operation of the Enabling Clause. Further notifications will be circulated as addenda to this document.

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COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

A. PART IV

1. Customs duties

Document COM.TD/W/313 referred to a number of suspension of customs duties with effect from 1 July 1980. Details have been published in the relevant Official Journal of the European Communities.

2. Import restrictions - jute products

In the context of the agreement concluded by the European Economic Community and India and Bangladesh (see document L/5000/Rev.1) all existing quantitative restrictions on imports of jute products are suspended. The agreement also contains a commitment to eliminate all quantitative restrictions applicable on imports into the EEC of jute products originating in and coming from India and Bangladesh, as from 1 January 1984.

Arrangements have also been concluded with Thailand with regard to importation of jute products into the Benelux countries (O.J. L 198, 31 July 1980).

B. ENABLING CLAUSE

3. GSP - 1980 system

The main features of the Community's 1980 GSP system have already been outlined in the document COM.TD/W/313, paragraph 25. These include:

- admission of the People's Republic of China;
- 30 per cent increase in the permissible volume of preferential textile imports to 115,000 tons for eligible beneficiaries;
- rise in annual "ceiling" levels.

The 1980 scheme was formally notified to the GATT and circulated under the reference L/4804/Add.1.

4. GSP 1981-1985 system

The Institutions of the Community are currently preparing the system of generalized preferences which the Community will apply with effect as from 1 January 1981, following the end of the first decade of GSP. An official notification to the GATT would be made at the appropriate time.

FINLAND

1. Changes made in the Finnish GSP scheme during the year 1980 are contained in GATT document L/3694/Add.9 and Add.10. Ten more countries, including the People's Republic of China, have been included in the list of the beneficiary countries. A special scheme has been established for the least-developed countries.
2. The import licensing requirements for peaches and mixed fruit, preserved (items 20.06.601/609 and 20.06.901/909 in the Finnish Customs tariff) have been lifted as from 1 July 1980 (these products are considered to be especially interesting to the developing countries).
3. The imports of consumer durables included in the list of products subject to licensing requirements have been liberalized in two stages, first part as of 1 January 1980, the second part as of 1 July 1980.
4. The imports of certain tropical fruit falling under positions 08.07.909 and 08.08.900 (stone fruit and berries, fresh) in the Finnish Customs tariff have been liberalized during 1980.
5. With reference to paragraph (A)2(vii) of the attachment to GATT/AIR/1651, the following should be noted: possibilities to increase direct imports from the developing countries are the focus of bilateral trade negotiations. Various kinds of research activities are also pursued to increase imports from developing countries. The Ministry of Commerce and Industry is currently financing a research programme conducted by the University of Trade, to improve possibilities for increasing direct imports. Future prospects of the metal, forest and textiles as well as clothing industries have been studied taking specially into account the possibilities for growth of the imports of developing countries. Special courses are being organized by the University of Trade for officials from developing countries responsible for export promotion. Import promotion office activities have also been initiated.
6. Together with Sweden and Norway, Finland has financed two special trade policy courses for least-developed country officials under the auspices of GATT.

JAPAN

The Government of Japan has taken no additional measures to notify to the GATT secretariat other than those described in the GATT document COM.TD/W/313 dated 7 July 1980. In this connexion, it should be noted that the tariff number "CCCN 28-32-2" which appears in line 12 of paragraph 27 of document COM.TD/W/313 should read CCCN 28-38-2.

NEW ZEALANDTrade promotion

1. Through the Developing Countries Liaison Unit established by the Department of Trade and Industry in 1975 to assist exports to New Zealand from developing countries, New Zealand has continued to assist developing countries increase their exports to New Zealand by helping in arrangements for visiting trade missions; trade groups and individual exporters. The assistance to these visitors has been extended to aiding them in exploring the market opportunities in New Zealand for their products.
2. Another form of assistance which has been given by the Unit during the year has been the dissemination of New Zealand market information to developing country exporters wishing to export to New Zealand.
3. The Unit's work in the Trade Promotion area has been complemented with general assistance also being provided in other ways. For example, a team of four officials is to spend three weeks touring the ASEAN capitals in the near future to explain New Zealand's tariff and import licensing régimes and exporting to New Zealand in general.
4. It is also proposed that trade officials from ASEAN countries be attached on secondment to the New Zealand Department of Trade and Industry to gain first-hand knowledge of New Zealand's trade promotion techniques, tariff and import licensing systems, and the New Zealand market in general.

Non-tariff measures

5. During 1980 a number of non-tariff measures have been implemented which will assist developing countries to increase their exports to New Zealand. Of particular importance are the MTN undertakings; recommendations relating to textiles made by the New Zealand Industries Development Commission (IDC) and exemptions resulting from the 1980-81 Import Licensing Schedule.
6. MTN undertakings: The implementation of New Zealand's MTN undertakings in the import licensing field has resulted in the issue of additional licences on such products as fish fillets, rice in retail packs; vegetable oils in retail packs; other prepared or preserved meat or meat offal only; sugar confectionery not containing cocoa; cocoa powder, unsweetened; chocolate and other food preparations containing cocoa; biscuits; macaroni, spaghetti and similar products; vegetables and fruit, prepared or preserved etc; jams, fruits and jellies; fruit preserved by freezing; vegetable and

fruit juices not in bulk containers; extracts, essences or concentrates of coffee and coffee substitutes; textured vegetable protein; and prepared mustards, mixed condiments and seasonings other than soy sauce etc.

7. IDC recommendations: Following a detailed investigation into New Zealand's textile industry the IDC submitted an extensive number of recommendations to the Government on the future structure of the industry. As a result of the Government's decision to accept most of these recommendations a wide range of textile goods of interest to developing countries have now become exempt from import licensing. These include flax, yarn and thread containing man-made fibres in Tariff Chapter 51 with some exceptions; quilted fabrics; terry towelling and bathmats of terry towelling. Also bed, table, toilet and kitchen linen, plain; babies' napkins, bedspreads: plain; woven pile and chenille fabrics (other than of sheep's or lambs' wool or fine animal hair); woven textile fabrics, containing in any proportion man-made discontinuous fibres; woven continuous filament polyester net; woven polyester fabrics; babies' and infants' wear.

8. 1980-81 Import Licensing Schedule: In line with government policy to streamline the New Zealand import licensing system as much as possible the 1980-81 Schedule resulted in a number of exemptions being introduced which will be beneficial to developing countries. These include regenerated cellulose, etc., tape (other than self-adhesive) printed, embossed etc. as may be approved; wood of non-coniferous species roughly squared or half-squared, but not further manufactured; floor coverings of plaiting materials; newspapers, journals and periodicals, whether or not illustrated; and antiques of an age exceeding 100 years.

Tariffs

9. Extensive tariff benefits are now accorded by New Zealand to developing countries. The tariff for 74 per cent of developing country trade is set at free from all sources and 24 per cent is already included in New Zealand's Generalized System of Preferences. While this makes it difficult for New Zealand to implement additional measures which could benefit developing countries nevertheless some further changes have been possible in the past year. With effect from 1 November 1979 approximately \$1.5 million worth of further developing country trade was included in New Zealand's GSP or had the existing developing country duty rate reduced. Products concerned included crustaceans; pineapple juice; cigars and cheroots; cigarettes; basketwork; other imitation jewellery and other articles of iron or steel and tin.

10. Another benefit which also became effective from 1 November was that all goods approved for entry into New Zealand free of duty as developing country handicrafts have been exempted from payment of sales tax under a new sales tax exemption item which has been created.

Other

11. In line with the objectives of Part IV and the "special and differential treatment" provisions of the Framework Agreement, New Zealand, together with Australia, has entered into an important, non-reciprocal regional trade arrangement designed to assist developing countries in the Pacific region. The Agreement, the South Pacific Regional Trade and Economic Cooperation Agreement (SPARTECA), is expected to come into force on 1 January 1981.

The Agreement provides that Australia and New Zealand will grant duty-free and unrestricted access for most of the products exported by Island members of the South Pacific Forum on a non-reciprocal basis. In addition, it provides for economic co-operation among the governments concerned, with particular emphasis on assistance by Australia and New Zealand to help develop the export capability of the Forum Island countries. The Agreement was signed subject to ratification by the Forum Heads of Government from Australia, Cook Islands, Kiribati, New Zealand, Niue, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Western Samoa.

NORWAY

1. With effect from 1 July 1980, Norway has reduced the duty rate for cut flowers under CCCN 06.03 to Nkr 3.0/kg. pursuant to the request for advance implementation of tariff concessions on products of interest to developing countries.
2. The Norwegian Government has prolonged the system of global import quotas on various textile items for half a year. There are no changes in the modalities of the system reported in document COM.TD/W/291. The sizes of the global quotas correspond to the quotas established for imports in the first six months of 1980 (L/4692/Add.3).
3. As of 1 March 1979, the People's Republic of China has been included in the list of beneficiary countries of the Norwegian GSP scheme. The same beneficial treatment is granted to Zimbabwe with effect from 1 September 1980.
4. Some minor extensions of the product coverage of the Norwegian GSP scheme regarding CCCN Chapters 1-24 has been carried out.

SWITZERLAND

The improvement in the Swiss scheme of preferences which took effect on 1 January 1980 has already been mentioned in document COM.TD/W/313 and described in detail in document L/4020/Add.4.

In order to promote the trade of developing countries, several of them are invited each year to participate in the two principal fairs held in Switzerland. In 1980, Malaysia and Zaire took part in the "Foire suisse des échantillons" (Swiss samples fair) at Basle, and Iraq and Malaysia participated in the "Comptoir suisse" (Swiss trade fair) at Lausanne.

Imports from developing countries increased considerably between 1978 and 1979 - from Sw F 4,128 million to Sw F 4,716 million (Switzerland's total imports having risen from Sw F 42,300 million to Sw F 44,024 million). Over the same period, imports covered by the Swiss scheme of preferences increased from Sw F 1,970 million to Sw F 2,160 million, and those under preferential arrangements from Sw F 850 million to Sw F 934 million.