

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

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TROPICAL PRODUCTS: INFORMATION ON THE COMMERCIAL POLICY SITUATION AND TRADE FLOWS

BANANAS AND BANANA PRODUCTS

Addendum

With reference to paragraph 12 of document COM.TD/W/331/Rev.1, the delegation of Hungary has provided the following information.

As far as Hungary is concerned, there are no detailed and obligatory foreign trade plans broken down according to products, enterprises or countries of origin. While the national economic plan determines the general guidelines of the economic activities, the main macro-economic policy targets are transmitted to the enterprises through the economic regulators, mainly by the price system and the prevailing exchange rate. Those are the only instruments of the authorities to influence and orientate the enterprise activities.

The customs duty - which is a cost factor of price calculation and influences the decisions of the importer - is zero for bananas under the Hungarian GSP, while the m.f.n. rate is 20 per cent. There are no quantitative limitations either built-in in our GSP or introduced for balance-of-payments purposes for tropical fruits.

Hungary is a traditional fruit producing country and the per capita fruit production is very high at about 460 kgs. The level of banana consumption in Hungary is influenced not only by this situation but also by the consumers' preference. Practically all our banana imports serve for widening the assortment. In addition, the banana storing and ripening capacity in Hungary is limited, affecting the quantity of banana imports. Main suppliers of bananas to Hungary were Ecuador, Colombia, Iraq and Sri Lanka in 1981.