

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON  
TARIFFS AND TRADE

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COT/121

8 November 1968

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Original: English/French

ARRANGEMENT REGARDING INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN COTTON TEXTILES

Agreement Between the Benelux Countries and India

Attached is the text of the Agreement concluded between the Benelux countries and India concerning trade in cotton textiles.

The text of this Agreement has been transmitted to the Director-General by the Permanent Delegations of Belgium and the Netherlands for notification to the Cotton Textiles Committee.

AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE BENELUX ECONOMIC UNION AND INDIA  
CONCERNING TRADE IN COTTON TEXTILES

The Government of the Kingdom of Belgium, acting in its own name and on behalf of the Government of the Grand Duchy of Luxemburg according to existing agreements,

and the Government of the Kingdom of the Netherlands,

These Governments acting together under the Treaty establishing the Benelux Economic Union, signed at The Hague on 3 February 1958, on the one hand,

and the Government of India, on the other,

Desiring to ensure the orderly development of trade in cotton textiles between the Benelux countries and India in accordance with the provisions of the Long-Term Arrangement of Geneva Regarding International Trade in Cotton Textiles (hereinafter referred to as the Geneva Arrangement), entered into force on 1 October 1962 and extended until 1 October 1970, and in particular Article 4 thereof, which provides for the conclusion of mutually acceptable arrangements,

Have agreed upon the following provisions:

Article 1

SCOPE

This Agreement shall apply to cotton textiles originating in and despatched from India and listed in the annex to this Agreement. Provided that no limitation shall be applied to transactions concerning handloom cotton fabrics if the said products are accompanied by a certificate issued by the competent authorities of India and recognized by the customs authorities of the Benelux countries.

Article 2

GENERAL PROVISIONS

For the duration of this Agreement and by virtue of the provisions contained therein or annexed thereto, the Governments of the Benelux countries undertake not to introduce new quantitative restrictions and agree not to invoke the provisions of Article 3 of the Geneva Arrangement as long as imports into the importing countries of cotton textiles originating in and despatched from India do not exceed the quantities agreed upon.

The Government of India undertakes to take the appropriate measures, especially when so requested by the Benelux countries, to ensure that the ceilings agreed upon are respected, and to co-operate with the Governments of the Benelux countries in implementing the measures recognized as necessary for this purpose.

Article 3

CEILINGS

(a) Global ceiling

The total quantity for the Benelux countries agreed upon for each twelve-month period shall be 1,300 metric tons.

(b) Ceilings by groups of categories

The said total quantity shall be apportioned as follows between the two main groups of categories of products:

		<u>Metric tons</u>
Group I	Cotton fabrics, grey or bleached, whether or not mercerized	930
Group II	Other cotton fabrics, made-up articles and miscellaneous articles of cotton	370

(c) Specific ceilings

Up to each of the ceilings by groups of categories established under (b) above, specific ceilings will be agreed upon in order to prevent excessive concentration of trade on certain products; these ceilings will be fixed on the basis of the annex to this Agreement.

If, in the course of one of the twelve-month periods, the Governments of the Benelux countries note a rapid and substantial growth in imports of certain products which are not covered by specific ceilings, they may request that a specific ceiling be fixed. Where such a request is made, consultations shall be held forthwith to agree upon the level of a specific ceiling for the product in question.

Article 4TRANSFERS

No transfer may be made between the quantity fixed for Group I and that fixed for Group II.

The specific ceilings must not be exceeded; within the framework of ceilings by groups the unused portions of the specific ceilings may be used for the other categories of the group which are not covered by specific ceilings.

AMOUNTS CARRIED OVER

Portions of one of the ceilings for the two groups of categories not used during any twelve-month period can be carried over and added to the ceiling for the same group in the following twelve-month period up to a maximum of 10 per cent of the ceiling in question.

The unused portions of the specific ceilings by category may be carried over and added to the same specific ceilings for the following year up to a maximum of 10 per cent of the said ceilings if the specific ceilings have not been the subject of a transfer or of a carry-over for some other purpose.

ADVANCE DELIVERIES

Within a limit of 5 per cent of each of the ceilings agreed upon, advance deliveries shall be authorized from the ceiling established for the following twelve-month period, if the Government of India so requests in writing in due time; the Government of India however, shall endeavour to ensure that exports of cotton textiles of all categories are spaced out as regularly as possible over each of the twelve-month periods, taking seasonal factors in particular into account. Amounts delivered in advance shall be deducted from the ceilings for the following twelve-month period.

Article 5CO-OPERATION

The signatory Governments agree to exchange all information relating to exports of cotton textiles from India to the Benelux countries and to the corresponding imports into these countries. Each signatory Government shall, for the purposes of this Agreement, apply whatever classification it has available and shall co-operate in facilitating comparison of information thus supplied.

Article 6

MAINTENANCE OF TRADE PATTERNS

Should the Governments of the Benelux countries inform the Government of India that difficulties have arisen, by virtue of this Agreement, regarding the maintenance of existing commercial relations between importers in the Benelux countries and their suppliers in India, the signatory Governments shall take all the necessary measures to ensure that these commercial relations are maintained.

Article 7

CONSULTATIONS

The signatory Governments undertake to consult each other, at the request of either the Government of India or the Governments of the Benelux countries, on all problems arising from the implementation of this Agreement.

Furthermore, the signatory Governments agree to take part each year and whenever it may appear to be necessary, at the request of one of the parties, in consultations between representatives of India and representatives of the member States of the European Economic Community as well as of the Commission of the European Communities regarding the overall aspects of trade in cotton textiles.

Article 8

FINAL PROVISIONS

As regards the Kingdom of the Netherlands, the present Agreement shall only apply to the territory of the Kingdom situated in Europe.

The present Agreement shall enter into force on the date of its signature, with retroactive effect as from 1 January 1968, for a period of three years, it being understood that, by reason of certain elements proper to the European Economic Community, the application of the present Agreement can only be affected in so far as similar agreements between the other member States of the European Economic Community and India shall have been signed.

Notwithstanding the provisions of the preceding paragraph, any signatory Government shall have the right to denounce the present Agreement in writing, upon at least 120 days' notice to the other signatory Governments, with effect from either 1 January 1969 or 1 January 1970.

The annex to the present Agreement forms an integral part thereof.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned representatives, duly authorized thereto, have signed the present Agreement.

DONE at Brussels, this fifteenth day of February 1968, in triplicate in the English and French languages, both texts being equally authoritative.

For the Benelux Economic Union

For India

Annex

LIST OF COTTON TEXTILE PRODUCTS REFERRED TO IN ARTICLE 3(c)  
OF THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE BENELUX ECONOMIC UNION AND  
INDIA CONCERNING TRADE IN COTTON TEXTILES, SIGNED  
AT BRUSSELS ON 15 FEBRUARY 1968

1 Group of categories	2 Categories	3 Description of products
GROUP I		<u>COTTON FABRICS, GREY OR BLEACHED, MERCERIZED OR NOT</u>
	B	COTTON FABRICS, GREY
	B 1	Terry towelling and similar terry fabrics
	B 2	Woven fabrics other than gauze or terry towelling and similar terry fabrics, containing less than 85 per cent by weight of cotton
	B 3	Woven fabrics other than gauze or terry towelling and similar terry fabrics, containing at least 85 per cent by weight of cotton, plain weave, weighing more than 70 but not more than 130 grs. per square metre, of a width more than 115 cm. but not more than 165 cm., only with a yarn numbered less than 55,000 m/kg. (English number 32)
	B 4	Woven fabrics other than gauze or terry towelling and similar terry fabrics, containing at least 85 per cent by weight of cotton, plain weave, weighing not more than 130 grs. per square metre, other than those under B 3
	B 5	Woven fabrics other than gauze or terry towelling and similar terry fabrics, containing at least 85 per cent by weight of cotton, plain weave, weighing more than 130 but not more than 200 grs. per square metre, of a width of at least 85 cm. but not more than 115 cm.
	B 6	Woven fabrics other than gauze or terry towelling and similar terry fabrics, containing at least 85 per cent by weight of cotton, plain weave, weighing per square metre more than 130 grs. but not more than 200 grs., of a width of more than 115 cm.

1 Group of categories	2 Categories	3 Description of products
GROUP I (cont'd)	B 7	Woven fabrics other than gauze or terry towelling and similar terry fabrics, containing at least 85 per cent by weight of cotton, of a width at least of 85 cm., other than plain weave
	B 8	Other woven fabrics
	C	COTTON FABRICS OTHER THAN GREY
	C 1	Bleached, mercerized or not
GROUP II		<u>OTHER COTTON FABRICS, MADE-UP ARTICLES AND MISCELLANEOUS ARTICLES OF COTTON</u>
	C 2	Gauze other than grey or bleached
	C 3	Terry towelling and similar terry fabrics, other than grey or bleached
	C 4	Woven pile fabrics and chenille fabrics (other than terry towelling or similar terry fabrics of cotton falling within heading No. 55.08 and fabrics falling within heading No. 58.05)
	C 5	Woven fabrics other than gauze or terry towelling and similar terry fabrics, dyed
	C 6	Woven fabrics other than gauze or terry towelling and similar terry fabrics, printed
	C 7	Woven fabrics other than gauze or terry towelling and similar terry fabrics, made with yarns of various colours
	D	HOUSEHOLD MADE-UP ARTICLES OF COTTON
	D 1	Bed linen
	D 2	Table linen
	D 3	Terry toilet linen and terry kitchen linen
	D 4	Other household articles



1 Group of categories	2 Categories	3 Description of products
GROUP II (cont'd)	E	COTTON CLOTHING
	E 1	Gloves, mittens and mitts, knitted or crocheted, not elastic or rubberized
	E 2	Undergarments, knitted or crocheted, not elastic or rubberized
	E 3	Outergarments and other articles, knitted or crocheted, not elastic or rubberized. Articles other than knitted or crocheted fabrics and articles thereof, elastic or rubberized
	E 4	Woven trousers and breeches, for men and boys
	E 5	Other woven outergarments for men and boys
	E 6	Woven outergarments for women, girls and infants
	E 7	Shirts and bodices for men and boys
	E 8	Other woven undergarments for men and boys
	E 9	Woven undergarments for women, girls and infants
	E 10	Handkerchiefs
	E 11	Other articles of apparel and clothing accessories
	F	MISCELLANEOUS COTTON FABRICS AND MADE-UP ARTICLES
	F 1	Travelling rugs and blankets
	F 2	Floor-cloths, dish-cloths, dusters, and the like
	F 3	Pneumatic mattresses
	F 4	Others

Confidential Annex

CEILINGS AGREED UPON PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 3(c) OF THE AGREEMENT  
BETWEEN THE BENELUX ECONOMIC UNION AND INDIA CONCERNING TRADE  
IN COTTON TEXTILES, SIGNED AT BRUSSELS ON 15 FEBRUARY 1968

<u>Group I:</u>	<u>Cotton fabrics, grey or bleached, mercerized or not</u>	930 tons
<u>Group II:</u>	<u>Other cotton fabrics, made-up articles and miscellaneous articles of cotton</u>	370 tons
C 2 )		
C 3 )		
C 4 )	Cotton fabrics, other than grey or	
C 5 )	bleached	150 tons
C 6 )		
C 7 )		
D 1	Bed linen	50 tons
D 2 )		
D 3 )	Household linen, other	60 tons
D 4 )		
E	Cotton clothing	75 tons

24 June 1968

Excellency,

I have the honour to acknowledge the letter of this date, in which Your Excellency and His Excellency the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Belgium have communicated to me that the undertakings contained in the Agreement between India and the Benelux Economic Union concerning trade in cotton textiles, signed at Brussels on 15 February 1968, shall be set out in an appropriate form in case of application of the provisions of paragraph 4, second sentence, of the Protocol entered into force on 1 October 1967 extending the Geneva Arrangement Regarding International Trade in Cotton Textiles.

I have the honour to bring to Your Excellency's attention the fact that the Government of India is in agreement with what has been stated above.

I take this occasion, Excellency, to renew the assurances of my highest consideration.

T. Swaminathan

His Excellency Baron J.A.G. de Vos van Steenwijk,  
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary  
of the Kingdom of the Netherlands,  
Brussels.

Brussels, 24 June 1968

Excellency,

With reference to the Agreement between the Benelux Economic Union and India concerning trade in cotton textiles, signed at Brussels on 15 February 1968, we have the honour to inform Your Excellency that it is understood that the undertakings contained in that Agreement will be set out in an appropriate form in case of application of the provisions of paragraph 4, second sentence, of the Protocol that entered into force on 1 October 1967, extending the Geneva Arrangement Regarding International Trade in Cotton Textiles.

We would be grateful if Your Excellency would confirm the Government of India's agreement on this question.

Accept, Excellency, the renewed assurances of our highest consideration.

P. Harmel

J.A.G. Baron de Vos van Steenwijk

His Excellency Mr. T. Swaminathan,  
Ambassador Extraordinary and  
Plenipotentiary of India,  
Brussels.