

# GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

L/229

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## TRANSPOSITION OF SCHEDULE XXXVII - TURKEY

### Statement by the Turkish Government

The secretariat has received the following letter dated 17 September 1954. In accordance with the Turkish request, the question has been included in the Provisional Agenda (L/231) of the Ninth Session of the CONTRACTING PARTIES.

"As indicated in the note which was transmitted to you and which was published subsequently under the symbol L/203 of 26 February 1954, the National Assembly of Turkey adopted a law (Law No. 6290) modifying the customs tariff and accepting the nomenclature and the definition of customs value laid down in the Brussels Conventions. The new tariff, based exclusively on ad valorem duties, entered into force on 7 June 1954.

"At the time when the former customs tariff was replaced by the new one, the Turkish Government, fully aware of the difficulties which would result from the transposition of the customs tariff into the new nomenclature and being anxious, furthermore, to avoid difficulties for the CONTRACTING PARTIES, thought that it would be more convenient and more useful, in the case of goods which are subject to a bound rate of duty, to apply the specific tariff in force at the time of the entry into force of the above mentioned law, and a provisional Article was inserted into Law No. 6290 thereby reserving the customs treatment to be applied to such imports.

"Now, the experience gained since the entry into force of the new tariff has shown the inconvenience which results from the application of two different types of customs tariffs, involving different nomenclatures and different rates of duty. In fact, in the case of items which had been bound under the General Agreement, the officials whose task it is to apply the new legislation have had to resort, whenever required to do so, to the provisions of the abrogated law and have thus had to apply two different tariffs.

"For this reason, and in order to obviate the inconvenience of such a situation, the Turkish Government has decided to transpose its schedule of concessions (Schedule XXXVII) into the new tariff and to convert the specific duties in this schedule into ad valorem duties for the purpose of securing uniformity in the application of the national customs legislation.

Work is in progress for the transposition into ad valorem duties of the Turkish Schedule of concessions on the basis of 1948 values, adopted as a reference year, and for the purpose of bringing the wording of this Schedule into line with the new tariff nomenclature.

"It is understood that items which appear in document L/203, for which this transposition had already been effected, will not be included in the operation.

"It is further to be stressed that the above mentioned conversion of specific rates only aims at avoiding the application of the former tariff and will not in any case lead to an impairment of the substantial value of the concessions included in Schedule XXVII.

"If, as is expected, the work in question is completed before the opening of the Ninth Session, the Turkish Government will submit the changes involved for the approval of the CONTRACTING PARTIES.

"In view of the foregoing, I should be grateful if you would place this question on the provisional agenda for the Ninth Session and inform the contracting parties."

