

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

L/1726

20 February 1962

Limited Distribution

GREEK IMPORT RESTRICTIONS

Modifications of the Restrictions

I. Changes Notified in February 1962

By letter dated 8 February 1962 the Greek Government has informed the secretariat of the following changes in its import restrictions:

"With effect from 14 September 1961, the following articles may be imported into Greece, under individual licences granted by a Special Committee:

<u>Tariff item no.</u>	<u>Product</u>
03.01 B, 03.02 G, 3b	Fish, fresh, in brine or smoked
07.01 A	Potatoes
07.05 A	Beans
10.03, 10.04, 10.05	Barley, oats, maize
12.01 J	Hemp seeds
13.01 C	Algarobilla pods
23.04 A	Residual olive pulp
32.08 A	Tannin extracts
84.15 A/3a	Cabinets for electric refrigerating equipment, not incorporating refrigerating units

"Restrictions have been imposed on imports of fish, potatoes, beans, barley, oats, maize and hemp seeds, with a view to protecting domestic production which has recently risen considerably, and can cover adequately domestic consumption needs.

"Restrictions have been imposed on imports of cabinets for electric refrigerating equipment, following fraudulent practices on the part of certain importers. It should be noted, however, that since 14 September 1961 an increasingly liberal policy has been applied in the granting of import licences for other products whose counterpart value in foreign exchange is comparatively much higher than that of the article in question."

"Thus, imports of coal and wood are now unrestricted, and likewise imports of tyres and inner tubes, for 10 per cent of the value of such goods is no longer required to be imported from Egypt.

"Furthermore, with effect from 5 December 1961, the following articles may be imported into Greece under individual licences granted by a Special Committee:

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| 1. | 07.01 C, D, E | Fresh vegetables (tomatoes, onions, garlic, cabbages, cauliflower, spinach, green beans, mushrooms, capers, artichokes, carrots, radishes, salad beetroot, cucumbers, marrows, aubergines, peas, etc.) |
| 2. | 07.05 B, C, E | Dried leguminous vegetables (horse-beans, chick-peas, lentils) |
| 3. | 08.02 - 08.13 | Fruit, fresh or dried |
| 4. | 12.01 | Seasamum seeds |
| 5. | 20.02 C | Concentrated tomato purée |
| 6. | 44.21 A | Wooden packing cases, wholly or partly assembled |
| 7. | 63.01 | Used garments |

"The above restrictions are also designed to protect domestic production, which is amply sufficient to meet the needs of domestic consumption."

II. Changes Notified in June 1961

By letter dated 7 June 1961, the Greek Government informed the secretariat of certain changes made in its import restrictions between May 1960 to that time. This information was circulated to contracting parties in document L/1470/Add.7. Since it relates to restrictions applied for balance-of-payments reasons, it is reproduced hereunder for the convenience of contracting parties in dealing with the information given in Section I above.

"The import system, based on global quotas, which applied to wood, coal, sewing machines, iron, sheet-iron, pulp and newsprint, tyres and tubes, as well as certain electrical appliances, was revised effective July 1960. Since that time, pulp, sewing machines and electrical appliances have been freely imported, whereas wood, coal (with the exception of anthracite and coke which are also imported freely), iron, sheet-iron, newsprint, tyres and tubes have been placed under the procedure provided for in List A (authorizations of a Special Committee upon individual application)."

"I should like to point out that all requests for imports of iron, sheet-iron and newsprint are granted. The same treatment applies to tyres and tubes on the condition that 10 per cent of the value of such goods is imported from the United Arab Republic. This measure is designed to activate the disposal of a rather sizeable surplus balance in our favour as a result of clearing agreements between Greece and the United Arab Republic.

"All requests to import wood not produced in countries with whom Greece has concluded bilateral trade agreements are fully met. For other kinds of wood produced in countries with whom Greece has bilateral agreements, a ceiling of \$4 million in free currencies was set for the year 1961.

"It is evident therefore that import restrictions have been greatly relaxed, since only a portion of our wood, tyre and coal imports (with the exception of anthracite and coke) is still subject to restriction. This represents the only means available to the Greek Government to influence the carrying out of bilateral agreements.

"Insofar as petroleum products are concerned, ever since 1959 when the oil refinery started operation, only petroleum products not made by the refinery may be imported freely, as well as additional amounts of products supplied by the refinery but not in sufficient quantities to satisfy consumption.

"Regarding crude oil for the refinery, 30 per cent of the needed amount is imported by the State and the remainder by the company holding the concession."