

# GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

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## CONSULAR FORMALITIES

### Report by the Government of Turkey

The following report has been received from the Government of Turkey in response to a request of the CONTRACTING PARTIES to contracting parties still regularly requiring consular formalities to report to the twenty-first session.

In conformity with recommendations of the CONTRACTING PARTIES, the Turkish Government has taken effective legal measures to relax and simplify the existing consular formalities and procedures and to remove the fees paid for certificates of origin and legalization. Two bills have been prepared on this subject and submitted to the Turkish Parliament for consideration.

Although the first bill, which at present is before an ad hoc committee of the lower house, maintains nominally the institution of certificates of origin for goods imported into the country, it changes substantially the provisions pertaining to procedures and legalization, and gives them more flexibility by empowering the Ministry of Customs to lay down the condition of legalization of certificates of origin by specified authorities.

The bill also provides that a commodity which undergoes changes and processes in a third country will be considered a commodity of that country by origin only if its total value is increased by 50 per cent as the result of such changes and processes.

The bill exempts the following goods from the provision of a certificate of origin:

- (1) Goods the c.i.f. value of which are determined by Ministry of Customs and the origin of which can be established through trade-marks and signs.
- (2) Goods which are non-commercial and bear trade-marks and signs of the factories by which they are manufactured.

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The bill proposes that certificates of origin would not be requested at the time of entry, but could be presented within eight months after the importation, whereas the present time-limit is four months.

In this connexion attention is also drawn to the fact that the obligation to produce consular legalization in exceptional cases that come under force majeure has been removed by the Import Regulation dated 4 January 1962.

The second bill, which aims to amend the existing provisions pertaining to the fiscal charges and fees and which is also before the ad hoc committee, anticipates the removal of fees paid in connexion with consular formalities and legalization of certificates of origin.

In conclusion it is stressed that by taking these steps, the Turkish Government has shown its willingness to adapt itself to the spirit of the General Agreement.