

# GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

L/2945

1 December 1967

Limited Distribution

---

Original: French

## ASSOCIATION BETWEEN GREECE AND THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY

### Statement by the Representative of Greece at the Twenty-Fourth Session of the CONTRACTING PARTIES

In accordance with our undertaking to make a progress report to the CONTRACTING PARTIES on the association between Greece and the European Economic Community, I should like to present the following information.

In the past two years the association between Greece and the EEC has proceeded in accordance with the plan and schedule provided for in the Athens Agreement with a view to achievement of a customs union between the two parties.

From the tariff aspect, since 1 July 1967 the duties charged on Greek industrial products when imported into the Community represent an 85 per cent reduction from the basic duties in force in 1957. Since the Agreement entered into force on 1 November 1962, these products have been free of any quantitative restrictions.

With respect to exports of agricultural products of special interest to Greece, listed in Annex III to the Agreement, a reduction of 70 per cent is granted on these products upon entry into the Community if they are liberalized, and a reduction of 75 per cent on non-liberalized products. In addition, the same products are covered by quota dismantlement measures.

So far as exports from the EEC to Greece are concerned, a 40 per cent reduction in duties has been in effect since 1 May 1967 on industrial products not manufactured in Greece, and a 15 per cent reduction since 1 November 1967 on products that are manufactured in Greece and which are accordingly listed in Annex I to the Agreement. Since 1 May 1967 a 40 per cent reduction has been in effect for imports into Greece from the Community of agricultural products included in annex III. Since 1 November a reduction of 25 per cent or 30 per cent, according to the product concerned, has been granted on agricultural products falling within the categories provided for in Protocol 13, paragraph 2, annexed to the Agreement. Lastly, since 1 November also, a 15 per cent reduction is in effect for products included in the schedule annexed to Protocol 13.

./.

This year it must again be noted that the progressive implementation of the Agreement of Association between Greece and the EEC has not affected the development of trade between third countries and Greece. If we make a comparison between Greek imports of products from the Community and from third countries, we find the following.

Imports from the Community rose from \$320 million in 1963 to \$504 million in 1966, representing an increase by 57.5 per cent over a three-year period.

Imports from third countries rose from \$484 million in 1963 to \$719 million in 1966, representing an increase by 48.5 per cent.

These figures show a proportionate increase in the volume of exports from the EEC to Greece, and this is normal having regard to the objectives of the Association Agreement. This expansion of EEC exports has not, however, been detrimental to exports by third countries to Greece, since over the same period these latter exports have also increased substantially.

On the basis of the information furnished, I trust that the CONTRACTING PARTIES will find that Greece is observing its obligations as a contracting party to GATT, as they derive from the General Agreement, in connexion with the implementation of the plan and schedule provided for in the Athens Agreement.