

# GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

L/2955

20 December 1967

Limited Distribution

Original: English

## EUROPEAN ECONOMIC INTEGRATION

### Resolution Adopted by the Council of the International Chamber of Commerce

At the request of the Secretary-General of the International Chamber of Commerce the following Resolution, adopted by the Council of the ICC on 5-6 December 1967, is distributed for the information of contracting parties.

The International Chamber of Commerce has on a number of occasions expressed its strong support of a closer economic association of all the countries of Western Europe as an important means of contributing not only to the expansion of trade within the region but also of promoting trade and economic development in the world as a whole.

In pursuance of these principles the ICC welcomed the creation of the European Economic Community and has constantly co-operated in the evolution of its economic policies. In so doing it has expressed its concern that the Common Market of the "Six" "would be outward looking in its external policies and would be a step toward the formation of a broader association of all the countries of Western Europe".

The ICC has constantly viewed with anxiety the prospect of a prolonged division of Western Europe into separate trading groups such as has subsisted for the past eight years. It therefore welcomes with particular warmth the decision taken by the United Kingdom, Denmark, Norway and the Irish Republic to apply formally for full membership of the European Economic Community in accord with the terms of Article 237 of the Treaty of Rome and the interest shown in various ways by other Western European countries in closer arrangements with the Community.

The need for a wider integration of countries in Western Europe - which should not be limited to those countries which up to now have applied for full membership - has become increasingly apparent if the benefits to be derived from the development of modern technology are to be reaped in full measure and the requirements of large-scale production and marketing associated with it are to be met, not only in Europe but in the whole world.

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The ICC therefore urges that the negotiations consequential to the present applications for membership be undertaken without delay taking into account the views expressed by the Commission of the European Economic Community on 29 September 1967. Negotiations with other countries concerned are likewise urgent. It appreciates that the problems arising in connexion with the extension of the European Economic Community are substantial and important. It is convinced, however, that none of these problems is insuperable given the political will required to bring the negotiations to a successful conclusion.