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Statement by the Representative of Greece on the Association between Greece and the European Economic Community, Delivered under Item 11(a) of the Agenda, on 19 November 1968

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 year the progressive attainment of the customs union between the EEC and Greece has continued. Since 1 July 1968 -- on which date the free movement of goods became effective between the Six -- Greek industrial products are admitted into the Community duty free. It should be recalled that since 1 November 1962 these products have also been free of any quantitative restrictions. Agricultural products of special interest to Greece (listed in Annex III to the Athens Agreement) are at present benefiting from reductions representing 85 to 100 per cent of the basic duties, according to the product concerned.

The following concessions should be noted:

- duty-free treatment for tobacco and raisins, which are the two principal Greek export products;
- reduction of 85 to 100 per cent on fresh or preserved fruit and vegetables. These reductions are granted under a provisional system established with a view to the future harmonization of agricultural policies as between the Community and Greece; this system has been extended until 30 June 1969;
- tariff quotas for wines, which are dutiable at a rate equivalent to the intra-Community duties;
- a levy system calculated on the Greek internal price coupled with a flat-rate reduction of \$5 per ton for olive oil and duty-free treatment for olives.

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Since 1 November 1968 a duty reduction of 50 per cent has been granted on imports into Greece from the Community of industrial products other than those listed in Annex I to the Association Agreement, on which the tariff demobilization is progressing at a slower rate. On these latter products the tariff reduction has been 15 per cent since 1 November 1967.

In the agricultural sector, tariff demobilization is also proceeding according to the schedule provided for in the Agreement; since 1 November 1968 a 50 per cent reduction has been applied on the products listed in Annex III. Likewise, in respect of the products included in the list annexed to Protocol 13, which are of special interest to member States (meat, fish, poultry, fats, dairy products, etc.) Greece has granted a 15 per cent tariff reduction to the Community, and a reduction of 30 per cent, 30 per cent and 25 per cent respectively on ham, European-type cheeses and butter.

With respect to quotas, since 1 November 1967 the Community has benefited from a liberalization level equivalent to 75 per cent of private imports in 1958 and from the opening of global quotas for non-liberalized products.

As regards the alignment of the Greek customs tariff with the common customs tariff, a first approximation took effect on 1 November 1965 for the products subject to the twelve-year tariff demobilization schedule (Article 20, paragraph 1 of the Agreement for industrial products and Article 38, paragraph 1 for the agricultural products listed in Annex III). The application of the common customs tariff has been postponed for agricultural products not listed in Annex III. With respect to products listed in Annex I which are subject to a slower tariff demobilization schedule (twenty-two years), the first approximation will take effect on 1 May 1970.

I should like to emphasize, Mr. Chairman, that trade between Greece and countries other than the EEC member States has increased appreciably. The increase has been particularly marked in trade between Greece and the developing countries.