

# GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

L/3319  
20 January 1970

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Original: French

## ASSOCIATION BETWEEN GREECE AND THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY

### Annual Report Presented by Greece

The progressive attainment of the customs union established between Greece and the European Economic Community, under the Association Agreement, continued during 1969.

Since 1 July 1968, when customs duties were entirely eliminated between the Six, Greek industrial products have been admitted into the Community duty free. In addition, since 1 November 1962 quantitative restrictions on those same products have been abolished.

With a view to harmonization of the agricultural policies of the Community and of Greece, Greek agricultural products which are of particular interest to the country, and are listed in Annex III to the Association Agreement, enjoy the same tariff treatment as the member States apply between themselves, that is to say a 100 per cent reduction in the basic duties with effect from 1 January 1970 (except in the case of a few tariff headings on which, as a provisional measure, one of the member States has the possibility of applying a charge vis-à-vis the other member States).

In particular, the following products are affected:

- Tobacco and raisins are entirely exempt from duties.
- A tariff reduction is applied in respect of fresh or preserved fruit and vegetables, in the context of a provisional régime established with a view to harmonization of the agricultural policies of the Community and of Greece.
- For wine and for olive oil, another product listed in Annex III referred to above, Greece enjoys certain advantages.

With respect to industrial products imported from the Community, and in accordance with the time-table set by the Athens Agreement, since 1 November 1968 Greece has been applying tariff reductions equivalent to 50 per cent of the basic duties. An exception is made for the industrial products listed in Annex I (articles now produced in Greece and covered by Article 15) on which the customs duties are being reduced more slowly, and since 1 November 1967 the reduction has been 15 per cent of the basic duties. For the two categories of industrial products mentioned above, the next reductions in customs duties will take effect on 1 May 1970 at the rate of 10 per cent and 5 per cent respectively.

Similarly, with respect to imports of agricultural products from the member States of the Community, Greece grants duty reductions in accordance with the time-table provided in the Association Agreement. Accordingly, the duty reductions on products listed in Annex III have been at the rate of 50 per cent since 1 November 1968, and for the products in the list provided for in Protocol 13, concerning exports of certain agricultural products from member States of the Community to Greece (meat, fish, poultry, dairy products, etc.), at the rate of 15 per cent with larger reductions on ham (30 per cent), European-type cheeses (30 per cent) and butter (25 per cent). The next adjustments in the tariff régime for these agricultural products will take effect on 1 May 1970.

So far as the abolition of quantitative restrictions is concerned, since 1 November 1967 Greece has consolidated the liberalization equivalent to 75 per cent of private imports in 1968 from the Community, and has opened global quotas for non-liberalized products.

The Greek customs tariff is being aligned with the common customs tariff by stages. The first approximation took effect on 1 November 1965 for the products subject to the twelve-year transition (Article 20, paragraph 1 of the Association Agreement for industrial products, and Article 38 of that Agreement for the agricultural products listed in Annex III). A second approximation of the Greek customs tariff towards the common customs tariff of the Community will take effect on 1 May 1970, and will affect products subject to the twelve-year transitional period. On that date also, the first approximation of the Greek customs tariff towards the common customs tariff will take effect for products subject to the twenty-two year transitional period (products listed in Annex I).

It should be noted that this progressive alignment of the Greek customs tariff with the common customs tariff of the Community will eventually result in a substantial reduction in the customs duties applied by Greece on imports from countries other than the members of the Association.

Lastly, as regards a comparison of statistical data reflecting the evolution of Greek foreign trade since the entry into force of the Association Agreement and up to 1968, Greek imports may be seen to have increased proportionately both in relation to the Community countries and in relation to third countries. On the other hand, so far as Greek exports are concerned, these have developed more rapidly towards the Community countries.

EVOLUTION OF GREEK EXTERNAL TRADE  
1962-1968

(\$ million)

Year	Total	EEC	Changes %	Third countries	Changes %
<u>IMPORTS</u>					
1962	701.20	303.80	100.00	397.40	100.00
1963	804.30	320.30	5.40	484.00	21.80
1964	885.00	374.60	23.30	510.40	28.40
1965	1,133.70	469.20	54.40	664.50	67.20
1966	1,222.80	503.90	65.90	718.90	80.90
1967	1,186.30	527.40	73.60	658.90	65.80
1968	1,393.20	607.10	99.80	786.10	97.80
<u>EXPORTS</u>					
1962	250.1	90.20	100.00	159.9	100.00
1963	290.1	95.00	5.30	195.10	22.00
1964	308.50	115.60	28.20	192.90	20.60
1965	327.80	122.00	35.20	205.80	28.70
1966	406.00	144.00	59.60	262.00	63.80
1967	495.20	199.90	121.60	295.30	84.70
1968	467.80	222.60	146.80	245.20	53.30