

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

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IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ASSOCIATION AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE EEC AND GREECE

Communication from the Parties to the Agreement

Information for the Contracting Parties to GATT

1. Progress towards the attainment of the customs union established by the Agreement instituting an association between Greece and the European Economic Community continued during the years 1970 and 1971.

Since 1 July 1968, when customs duties were entirely eliminated between the Six, Greek industrial products have been admitted into the Community free of customs duties and of charges having equivalent effect. It should also be remembered that, since 1 November 1962, quantitative restrictions on these products have been abolished.

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 among themselves, that is to say a 100 per cent reduction in the basic duties.

2. With respect to industrial products imported from the Community, and in accordance with the time-table set by the Athens Agreement, since 1 November 1971 Greece has been applying tariff reductions equivalent to 70 per cent of the basic duties. An exception is made in respect of the industrial products listed in Annex I (articles manufactured in Greece and covered by Article 15), on which customs duties are being reduced more slowly; since 1 May 1970, the reduction has amounted to 20 per cent of the basic duties. For the two categories of industrial products mentioned above, the next reduction in customs duties will become effective on 1 November 1972 at the rate of 10 per cent of the basic duties.

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 the products listed in Annex III have been increased to 70 per cent from 1 November 1971. In the case of the products listed in Protocol 13 (meat, fish, poultry, dairy products, etc.), customs duties are reduced by 20 per cent, with larger reductions on ham (40 per cent), European-type cheeses (35 per cent) and butter (30 per cent).

3. So far as the elimination of quantitative restrictions is concerned, since 1 November 1967 Greece has consolidated the liberalization equivalent to 75 per cent of its private imports in the year 1958 from the Community and has opened global quotas for non-liberalized products.

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

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

5. Lastly, a comparison of the statistical data given in the annexed table, showing the development of the foreign trade of Greece since the entry into force of the Association Agreement and up to 1970, reveals that there has been a considerable increase in total Greek imports, but that imports from third countries have increased more than those from the Community countries. On the other hand, Greek exports to the Community countries have shown a greater increase than Greek exports to third countries.

THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE FOREIGN TRADE OF GREECE 1962-1970¹

(\\$ 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
1969	1,593.26	668.88	120.17	924.38	132.60
1970	1,958.34	791.52	160.53	1,166.82	193.61
<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
1969	553.38	249.80	176.94	303.58	89.86
1970	642.53	294.60	226.61	347.93	117.59

¹Source: Statistical Office of the European Communities