

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

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ASSOCIATION AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY AND GREECE

The following communication has been received from the parties to the Agreement.

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 1972 and 1973.

As already reported in the previous communication¹, since 1 July 1968, when customs duties were entirely eliminated within the Six-member Community, Greek industrial products have been admitted into the Community in its original membership free of customs duties and of charges having equivalent effect. In addition, 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 original EEC member States apply among themselves, that is to say a 100 per cent reduction in the basic duties.

In addition, in accordance with the time-table set by the Athens Agreement, since 1 November 1973 Greece has been applying tariff reductions equivalent to 90 per cent of the basic duties in respect of industrial products imported from the original Community and subject to a dismantlement period of twelve years. Duties on this category of products are to be entirely eliminated on 1 November 1974.

On the other hand, industrial products subject to the twenty-two year tariff dismantlement period (i.e. products listed in Annex I to the Agreement) benefit since 1 November 1972 from a tariff reduction of 28 per cent of the basic duties when imported into Greece. On 1 May 1974 Greece will bring into effect a further reduction of these duties so that the rate of reduction will then be 36 per cent.

¹See document L/3689 of 7 April 1972.

Similarly, with respect to imports of agricultural products from the original member States of the Community, Greece grants duty reductions in accordance with the time-table and categories provided in the Association Agreement. Accordingly, on the products listed in Annex III, the duty reductions (subject to a twelve-year tariff dismantlement period) have been increased to 90 per cent since 1 November 1973. In the case of products listed in Protocol 13 (meat, fish, poultry, dairy products etc.), Greece applies to imports of these products from the original member States of the EEC the tariff and quota régime provided for products subject to the twenty-two year transitional period (20 per cent), with larger reductions on ham (40 per cent), European-type cheeses (35 per cent) and butter (30 per cent).

2. For the remaining agricultural products, the standstill régime is applied by both the original Community and Greece.

3. So far as the elimination of quantitative restrictions is concerned, since 1 November 1972 Greece has consolidated the liberalization equivalent to 80 per cent of its private imports from the Community for the year 1958. In addition the quotas for non-liberalized products opened for the Community have continued to be increased by 10 per cent each year.

4. The Greek customs tariff is being aligned with the common customs tariff of the Community by stages. To date, two approximations have been made effective, on 1 November 1965 and 1 May 1970 respectively; the first of these covered only products subject to the twelve-year transitional period (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). The common customs tariff will become fully applicable to products subject to the twelve-year period as from 1 November 1974.

The approximation which took effect on 1 May 1970 also affected products subject to the twenty-two year transitional period (products listed in Annex I).

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

5. Annexed hereto is a table showing the development of the foreign trade of Greece in the period 1962-1972.

THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE FOREIGN TRADE OF GREECE 1962-1972

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
1971	2,098.10	703.90	131.69	1,394.20	250.83
1972	2,355.20	1,289.50	324.45	1,065.70	168.16
<u>EXPORTS</u>					
1962	250.10	90.20	100.00	159.90	100.00
1963	290.10	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
1971	662.50	264.50	193.23	398.00	148.90
1972	870.40	457.00	406.65	413.40	158.53

Source: Statistical Office of the European Communities.