

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

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EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY

ACP-EEC Convention of Lomé

The Permanent Delegation of the Commission of the European Communities has advised, by a communication received on 1 July 1975, as follows.

I have the honour to communicate to you herewith, for the attention of the CONTRACTING PARTIES, the text of the Convention signed in Lomé (Togo) on 28 February 1975 between the European Communities, their member States and forty-six African, Caribbean and Pacific States, which was notified to the Council at its meeting of 24 March.

I should like to point out in this connexion that, as already stated on 24 March, this text is being communicated for reasons of courtesy and efficiency vis-à-vis the CONTRACTING PARTIES before the completion of the national ratification or adoption procedures which alone will confer validity and legal existence on the Convention. Nevertheless, as the EEC representative stated on the same occasion, the Parties to the Convention will implement the latter's trade provisions as from 1 July 1975.

Referring again to the Community representative's statement to the Council of 24 March, I would point out that in the Community's view the Lomé Convention establishes a new model for economic co-operation in general and for trade relations in particular between developed and developing countries between whom exists a long history of special and privileged relations, the validity and enduring nature of which have been specifically acknowledged by the General Agreement.

The trade arrangements established by the Lomé Convention replace those formerly existing on the one hand between the Europe of Six and certain ACP States, and on the other, between the United Kingdom and Ireland and other ACP States. It represents

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the adaptation in the form of a common arrangement compatible with the normal functioning of the customs union established between the nine member States of the Community, of the special arrangements applied individually by the latter in respect of the various ACP States.

In this new Convention the EEC observes the obligation to eliminate customs duties and other restrictive regulations of commerce as regards substantially all its trade with ACP States.

Conscious of its partners' development needs and of the principles set out in Part IV of the General Agreement, the Community has not demanded reciprocity in its trade with the ACP States. Moreover, the provisions in the Lomé Convention, particularly certain innovations, reflect the EEC's will to contribute to the development effort of the ACP States in keeping with the international community's aspirations towards a more just and more balanced economic order.

The Community is therefore convinced that the Convention conforms with the obligations of the CONTRACTING PARTIES and complies fully with the objectives which govern and motivate the GATT. The Community accordingly requests that this Convention be examined in the light of the overall objectives of the General Agreement.

The EEC is ready to co-operate fully in this examination: it asks all its partners in the GATT to approach the examination in the same positive manner and considers that such an approach may generally contribute towards further progress in international economic relations.

The secretariat has received copies of the text of the Convention in English and French, and one copy will be transmitted to each delegation.