

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

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AGREEMENTS BETWEEN THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES AND AUSTRIA

Information Furnished by the Parties to the Agreements

This report covers the period from the entry into force of the Agreements until 31 October 1975.

The FTA, between the EEC and Austria entered into force on 1 January 1973, and the FTA between the member States of the ECSC and the ECSC, on the one hand, and Austria, on the other hand, entered into force on 1 January 1974.

On 1 October 1972, the first mutual tariff cuts of 30 per cent according to the Interim Agreements of Austria with the European Economic Community and the member States of the European Community for Coal and Steel and the European Community for Coal and Steel entered into force.

The objective of the Agreements is to eliminate progressively the obstacles to substantially all the trade between the parties, in accordance with the provisions of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade concerning the establishment of free-trade areas.

The Agreements have functioned normally and have been applied in accordance with their provisions.

The main results are as follows:

1. During the period covered by the report tariffs have been reduced in accordance with the provisions of the Agreements to 40 per cent of their basic rates (since 1 January 1975).
2. On the date of the entry into force of the Agreements no quantitative import restrictions regarding products covered by the agreements, except those which Austria is allowed to maintain in accordance with Protocol No. 5 of the Agreement EEC/Austria and Protocol No. 2 of the Agreement ECSC/Austria, existed between the parties nor were any such restrictions introduced during the period under review.

3. Protocol No. 1 of the Agreements EEC/Austria and ECSC/Austria foresees a slower than normal rhythm of tariff reduction for certain sensitive products, and Protocol No. 2 of the Agreement EEC/Austria provides for tariff reductions on processed agricultural products. Both protocols have been applied as foreseen.
4. The rules of origin in Protocol No. 3 of the Agreement EEC/Austria which determine the eligibility of products for the tariff reduction under the Agreements have been applied as foreseen. In accordance with the provisions of this Protocol the rules have, in specific cases, been amended and supplemented in order to facilitate their implementation and application (see Annex).
5. Two Joint Committees have been established to administer and supervise the implementation of the Agreements and also to act as a forum for the information and consultation procedures foreseen in the Agreements.

The Joint Committees have taken a certain number of decisions which provide for a simplification of the procedures of administrative co-operation and documentation (in particular the movement certificate) (see Annex).

6. Commercial incidence
Approximately 93 per cent of the imports of the Communities from Austria are covered by the Agreements. On exports from the Communities to Austria this figure is 95 per cent.

Volume of commercial exchanges EC/Austria in millions of EUR:*

- Imports to the EC from Austria:

1972:	1,697
1973:	2,098
1974:	2,568

- Exports to Austria from the EC:

1972:	3,246
1973:	3,797
1974:	4,673

* Source: EEC Statistical Office

ANNEX

List of Decisions of the Joint Committees
Under the FTA's on Origin Matters

Subject	Decision No.	Austrian Fed. Gazette No.	Official Journal of the EC No.
Administrative co-operation	3/73	316/73	L 160/73
Postal consignments EUR.2	4/73	316/73	L 160/73
Amendment annexes V and VI to Protocol No. 3	5/73	316/73	L 160/73
Article 25, first rev.	6/73	316/73	L 160/73
Goods en route 1 April 1973	7/73	316/73	L 160/73
Annotation A.W. 1	8/73	316/73	L 160/73
Article 25, second rev.	9/73	95/74	L 347/73
Introduction EUR.1	10/73	133/74	L 365/73
Durum wheat (List A)	11/73	134/74	L 365/73
Spare parts	1/74	549/74	L 224/74
Approved exporter	2/74	550/74	L 224/74
Amendments Lists A and B	3/74	812/74	L 352/74
Suspension of the application of Article 23(1) of Protocol No. 3	4/74	813/74	L 355/74