

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON

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REPLIES TO QUESTIONNAIRE ON IMPORT LICENSING PROCEDURES

Malta

Addendum

The following communication dated 8 September 1992 has been received from the Permanent Mission of Malta in response to the questionnaire on import licensing procedures annexed to L/5640/Rev.8.

The Permanent Mission of Malta to the United Nations Office in Geneva presents its compliments to the Director-General of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade and has the honour to refer to GATT airgram no. 3303 dated 9 March 1992, and the notifications being reported by the Uruguay Round participants within the context of the Negotiating Group on Market Access.

This Mission is pleased to inform that between 1987 and 1991, the Government of Malta issued three Legal Notices amending the Importation (Control) Regulations, 1969, licensing procedures. These included LN 108 of 1988 (23/12/88) further amended by LN 163 of 1989 (22/12/89) which thus started the process of removing the previous system of blanket licensing control for every imported item, and LN 213 of 1990 (28/12/90) aimed at further reducing the list of commodities requiring an import licence. As a result, several tariff headings totalling to more than 800 such headings in the HS Code, were completely liberalized from import licensing control.

The dismantling of quantitative controls such as partial restrictions, import quotas and outright prohibitions on certain products was also effected through the appropriate legislative measures incorporated in Act No. XXXI of 1989 (10/10/89) and later amended by Act No. XXI of 1990 (24/5/90).

In its efforts to dismantle gradually the state-trading (bulk-buying) system, the Government has also removed practically all the items from this scheme. The remaining items whose importation is still subject to state-trading include grains (wheat, barley and maize), boneless beef, tinned milk, sugar, soyabean oil (degummed) and Portland cement. Plans are at hand to remove most of these items from state-trading during the next few years. In fact, the Government is already committed to the implementation of these plans except in the case of grains.