

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON

TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

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ACCESSION OF BULGARIA

Communication from Bulgaria

The following communication, dated 6 October 1992, has been received from the Permanent Representative of Bulgaria in Geneva.

With reference to the accession of Bulgaria to the GATT, I would like to notify the contracting parties of the following:

1. A new import tariff is in force in Bulgaria as of 1 July 1992. Please find enclosed one copy of the new Customs Tariff of Bulgaria*. In our communication, dated 26 August 1992, we already notified that the nomenclature of the goods in the Tariff is classified according to the Harmonized System. The new Tariff contains two columns. The first column is applied to the goods imported under the GSP. The GSP beneficiary countries are listed in Annex 1 of the Tariff. The second column is applied to goods imported on an MFN basis. Goods imported from the least-developed countries are duty free. The duty for the goods imported from those countries which do not apply MFN treatment to goods imported from Bulgaria, is twice the rate of the second column.
2. Since 12 July 1991, when communication L/6880 on the Bulgarian trade régime was distributed, some changes in the Bulgarian trade régime were introduced. This information is attached hereto.

*The Customs Tariff of Bulgaria is available for consultation in the Office of the Special Adviser to the Director-General (Office No. 2017).

Information on Some Changes in the Bulgarian Trade Régime

Since communication L/6880 of 12 July 1991 was distributed to the contracting parties some changes in the Bulgarian trade régime have occurred. The intention of the present information is to update the data on the Bulgarian trade régime.

Import tariff, import duties and taxes

A new import tariff is effective from 1 July 1992. It is based on the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System.

The average nominal customs duty MFN rate is 17.8 per cent. The tariff runs into two columns. The first column is applied to products originating from countries to which Bulgaria has granted tariff preferences. The second column is applied to products originating from countries which apply MFN treatment in respect of goods originating from Bulgaria. Goods originating from the least-developed countries are exempted from import duties. To imports of goods originating from countries which do not apply MFN towards goods originating from Bulgaria, a double MFN rate is applied.

As of 1 January 1992 the Bulgarian import duties are applied also to all imports from Albania, the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic, Peoples Republic of China, Cuba, Hungary, Peoples Democratic Republic of Korea, Mongolia, Poland, Romania and Vietnam. No duties are collected on imports under indicative lists in trade agreements and protocols with CIS countries and with the Baltic countries, a temporary measure which is to expire by 31 December 1992. At present such agreements and protocols are in force only with the Russian Federation, Belarus and Lithuania. The previously existing 15 per cent import tax was abolished with the introduction of the new import tariff. However, as of 1 July 1992 an import tax in addition to the import duty was introduced for ten agricultural items and two industrial goods (annex 1).

Customs Fees

The customs clearance fee was reduced from 1 per cent to 0.5 per cent, effective since November 1991.

Licensing and quantitative restrictions

Exports

Items which used to be under export prohibition régime were partially liberalized, effective since 1 July 1992, i.e.:

- six items are subject to automatic licensing: crude oil, kerosene, gasoline, diesel oil, mazut and vegetable oil;
- two items are subject to non-automatic licensing: wood in the rough, ferrous and non-ferrous scrap;
- six agricultural items are subject to export ceilings (annex 2)

Imports

- Import ceilings are introduced for 5 items (annex 3)
- Seasonal import quotas are introduced for 2 items (annex 3)

Non-automatic licences are granted within 5 working days from the date of application. Automatic licences are issued in one day.

The introduction of import tax and import ceilings or quotas on some agricultural products is intended thus to protect the Bulgarian agriculture from subsidization practices in the agricultural sector of other countries. Such subsidization practices have a negative effect on the Bulgarian market, on the Bulgarian exports to countries maintaining such practices, and on the Bulgarian exports to third country markets. At present Bulgaria virtually does not subsidize the production of agricultural products. Bulgaria also does not subsidize the exportation of agricultural products.

ANNEX 1

GOODS FOR WHICH IMPORT TAX IS COLLECTED IN ADDITION
TO THE EXISTING IMPORT DUTY

COMMODITIES	TARIFF	IMPORT TAX IN PERCENT
1. Beef and veal meat - frozen	0202	25
2. Pork meat - frozen	020321	15
	020322	15
3. Poultry meat - frozen	020721	25
	020722	25
	020723	25
	020741	25
	020742	25
	020743	25
	020750	25
4. Yoghurt	0403	10
5. Butter	04050000	15
6. Grapes, fresh from 1 July, till 31 October	08061000	15
7. Apples, fresh from 1 August till 31 December	08081000	15
8. Extracts or juices of meat, fish and crustaceans, molluscs	1603	10
	1605	10
9. Processed fruits	20084090	15
	20085010	15
	20085090	15
	20086010	15
	20086090	15
	20087010	15
	20087090	15
	20088010	15
	20088090	15
10. Fruit juices	20095000	5
	20096000	5
	20097000	5
	20098000	5
11. Perfumery and cosmetics	3304	5
	3305	5
	3306	5
	3307	5
12. Passenger cars of a cylinder capacity exceeding 2500 cub.cm	87032310	10
	87032410	10

ANNEX 2

GOODS ON WHICH EXPORT CEILINGS ARE IMPOSED

COMMODITIES	TARIFF	CEILING
1. Female livestock for breeding:		
Bovine of more than 18 months	01021000	300 t
Sheep and goat of more than 12 months	01041000	300 t
	01042000	
2. Fresh wine grapes	08061000	50000 t
3. Wheat	1001	50000 t
Fodder grain	1002	250000 t
	1003	
	1004	
	1005	
4. Wheat flour all types	11010000	50000 t
5. Black Sunflower seeds	12060010	10000 t
6. Raw hides and skins		
of bovine animals	4101	500 t
of sheep or lamb	4102	500000 pc
of raw pig skins	4107	500 t

ANNEX 3

GOODS FOR WHICH IMPORT CEILINGS OR QUOTAS ARE IMPOSED

COMMODITIES	TARIFF	CEILING
1. Tobacco	2401	5000 t
2. Oranges	08051000	20000 t
3. Tangerines	08052000	1000 t
4. Bananas	08030000	9000 t
5. Ice-cream	21050000	1000 t
		QUOTA
1. Greenhouse tomatoes from 1 November till 31 May	07020000	250 t
2. Greenhouse cucumbers from 1 November till 31 May	07070000	200 t