

# GENERAL AGREEMENT ON

## TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

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### AFRICAN, CARIBBEAN AND PACIFIC GROUP OF STATES - EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

#### ACP-EEC Convention of Lomé

The following communication has been received from the Chairman of the ACP Committee of Ambassadors and the Head of the Permanent Delegation of the Commission of the European Communities.

We have the honour, on behalf of the ACP Group of States and of the European Economic Community, to communicate to you herewith, for the attention of the Contracting Parties, the text of the fourth Convention<sup>1</sup> signed at Lomé on 15 December 1989 between the European Economic Community, its Member States and sixty-nine African, Caribbean and Pacific States. The Convention entered into force on 1 September 1991.

This new Convention follows and builds upon the previous Lomé Conventions, which were submitted to the GATT.

The basic objectives and principles of ACP-EEC co-operation are spelled out in the first section of this Convention. The Contracting Parties confirm their desire to promote and expedite the economic, cultural and social development of the ACP States, consolidating and diversifying their relations. They are thus continuing to establish a new model for co-operation between developed and developing countries based on a long-standing historical tradition of special and privileged relations, the validity and permanence of which have been explicitly recognized by the General Agreement.

The trade arrangements established by the new Convention maintain those previous Conventions and improve on some of their principles (rules of origin, access for agricultural and fishery products).

In accordance with the provisions of Part IV of the General Agreement with respect to non-reciprocity and having regard to the commercial, financial and development needs of the ACP States, the latter are not

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<sup>1</sup> A copy of the text of the Convention published in EC Official Journal L229 of 17 August 1991 is available for consultation in the GATT Library.

required, for the period of validity of the fourth Convention, to grant products originating in the EEC access to their markets equivalent to that granted by the Community to products of ACP origin.

The ACP States and the Community are firmly convinced that the LOME IV Convention, being a logical sequel to the previous ones, is consistent with the Contracting Parties obligations and fully complies with the objectives that govern and inform the GATT.