

# GENERAL AGREEMENT ON

## TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

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AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC  
AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC ON MUTUAL  
RELATIONS AND PRINCIPLES OF COOPERATION IN AGRICULTURE,  
FOOD PROCESSING, FORESTRY AND WATER MANAGEMENT WITHIN  
THE FRAMEWORK OF THE CUSTOMS UNION

Joint communication by the Government of the Czech Republic  
and of the Government of the Slovak Republic

Addendum

The following joint communication has been received from the parties to the Agreement.

The Government of the Czech Republic and the Government of the Slovak Republic (hereinafter referred to as "the Contracting Parties"), represented by the Ministry of Agriculture of the Czech Republic and the Ministry of Agriculture of the Slovak Republic resolved

to implement the objectives and principles of the Agreement establishing the Customs Union between the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic signed on 29 October 1992 (hereinafter referred to as "the Agreement on the Customs Union") as well as further agreements concluded between the Contracting Parties,

to develop their relations based on the principle of reciprocity in the interest of harmonious development and prosperity of agriculture, food processing, forestry and water management of the Contracting Parties

have agreed as follows:

PART ONE

Economic Policy in Agriculture

Article I

1. The Contracting Parties shall pursue trade policy towards third countries in accordance with the provisions of the Agreement on the Customs Union.

2. The Contracting Parties undertake that in pursuing conforming commercial policy in regard to third countries within the framework of the Agreement on the Customs Union they shall respect and apply the following principles:

- uniform import and export licensing system,
- uniform system of non-tariff protection.

3. Allocation of quotas under the European Agreement and under the bilateral agreements with the EFTA States forms an annex to this Agreement.

4. The Contracting Parties shall negotiate common procedures in re-negotiating treaties with the Member States of the Commonwealth of Independent States.

#### Article II

1. Co-ordination of agricultural policies of the Contracting Parties according to Article I covers export subsidies, tax policy, prices, domestic support policy, activities of the Market Regulation Funds and other instruments for organization of markets.

2. Co-ordination of agricultural policies includes the mutual exchange of information, consultations and agreed procedures in the matters of common interest. The agreed procedures may be of joint and uniform nature.

3. The Contracting Parties shall inform each other in time on prepared regulatory market interventions so that both Contracting Parties could consider the matter thoroughly in order to find a solution acceptable to both Contracting Parties.

4. The instruments of economic policy applied by the Contracting Parties within the framework of agreed procedures may not prevent the accomplishment of the objectives of the Agreement on the Customs Union.

#### Article III

1. The Contracting Parties shall present a uniform draft offer concerning the acceptance of the Uruguay Round commitments after their mutual consultations.

2. The Contracting Parties shall co-operate also in transfer of rights and obligations arising from the international treaties concluded by the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic and commitments resulting from its membership in the international organizations. The Contracting Parties undertake to fulfil jointly the obligations which cannot be separated or the division of which is not reasonable.

3. The Contracting Parties shall choose the procedures which facilitate the speedy and smooth re-negotiation of the European Agreement with the European Community and the bilateral agricultural agreements with the EFTA States.

4. The Contracting Parties shall retain unchanged Protocol A of the Agreement between the EFTA States and the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic concerning processed agricultural products. When implementing this Agreement they shall inform each other on possible changes in a timetable for reduction of a non-agricultural component in the duties and they shall present a uniform proposal to the individual EFTA States.

5. The Contracting Parties shall conclude negotiations on the bilateral agreements with other CEFTA countries.

## PART TWO

### Common Provisions

#### Article IV

1. The Contracting Parties undertake to inform each other on principal issues relating to the agricultural and foodstuffs policy as well as forestry and water management policies.

2. The Contracting Parties undertake to carry out consultations on changes in their laws and other legal regulations to ensure that these shall not be contrary to the objectives of this Agreement and shall aim at harmonizing their legal orders with the legislation of the European Community.

3. For the purpose of implementing the tasks arising from this Agreement, the Contracting Parties shall establish, when necessary, ad hoc working groups, and a permanent working body with the Permanent Secretariat of the Council of the Customs Union (Committee on Co-ordination of Economic Policy in Agriculture).

4. In the case of disputes and unilateral actions taken by any of the Contracting Parties under Articles 36 and 37 of the Agreement on the Customs Union respectively, the relevant proposals and measures are considered within the Committee on Co-ordination of Economic Policy in Agriculture prior to their submission to the Council of the Customs Union.

#### Article V

1. Mutual relations and co-operation of the Contracting Parties in the area of sanitary and phytosanitary care shall be regulated by a special agreement concluded by the Contracting Parties. Until its conclusion, procedures shall be laid down in the agreement between the State Veterinary Offices of the Contracting Parties and the central control and testing institutes of agriculture. Similarly, an agreement shall be concluded between the respective bodies of the Contracting Parties responsible for supervision and State testing of foodstuffs.

2. Unless the special agreement is concluded, the Contracting Parties shall take joint measures concerning the management and exploitation of

common or border rivers and the flood control. They shall also inform each other on the measures taken under exceptional circumstances in the forests on the common border.

3. The Contracting Parties consider useful to co-operate in the area of cultivation and improvement of plants and animals, in testing, in research and in training. Details shall be laid down in special agreements.

4. Co-ordination of activities carried out by the Market Regulation Funds of the Contracting Parties shall be specified in a separate agreement.

5. The Land Funds of the Contracting Parties shall conclude an agreement aiming at the reciprocal facilitation of the settlement of some land property rights of the citizens of the Contracting Parties.

### PART THREE

#### Temporary and Final Provisions

#### Article VI

1. Through their Ministries of Agriculture, the Contracting Parties shall co-operate in preparing and implementing the measures connected with the dissolution of the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic. These Ministries shall co-operate with the respective bodies of the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic and of the Contracting Parties in transferring the competences and activities of the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic to the new States in the area of registration, licensing and recognition of new varieties of plants and breeds, in legislation and standardization, including the Food Code, in activities carried out by the Chief Plant Health Officers and Chief Veterinary Officers, in foreign trade, foreign relations, foreign aid and in research.

2. Winding up of the activities of the Federal Market Regulation Fund shall be ensured by the Contracting Parties through their representatives in the Council of this Fund on the basis of the respective legal measure passed by the Federal Assembly of the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic.

3. Within the scope of their activities, the Ministries of Agriculture of the Contracting Parties shall co-operate with the relevant authorities in settling the property of the Federal Office for Material Reserves.

4. The Contracting Parties shall revise jointly the project drafted in 1992 under the PHARE Programme in the area of agriculture for the year 1993. After consultations with the respective bodies of the European Community, they shall adopt such procedures which shall facilitate the smooth completion of final versions of projects in order to draw without delay on the funds provided by the European Community for such projects.

5. Definition of property and other issues related to the implementation of paragraphs 1 and 4 of this Article shall be specified in special protocols. The draft protocols shall be prepared in co-operation with the respective bodies and organizations of the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic and of the Contracting Parties in order to ensure their entry into force on 1 January 1993.

#### Article VII

1. The Agreement is concluded for an indefinite period and shall enter into force on 1 January 1993.
2. The validity of the Agreement expires on the same date as that of the Agreement on the Customs Union.

#### Article VIII

Done at Bratislava on 23 November 1992 in duplicate in the Czech and Slovak languages both of them being equally authentic.

For the Government  
of the Czech Republic

Ivan Kocárník m.p.  
Minister of Finance

For the Government  
of the Slovak Republic

Vladimir Meciar m.p.  
Prime Minister