

**GENERAL AGREEMENT
ON TARIFFS AND TRADE**

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TUNISIA - TEMPORARY SUSPENSION OF BOUND DUTIES

Request for a Waiver under Article XXV:5

The following communication, dated 14 October 1993, has been received from the Permanent Mission of Tunisia with the request that it be considered by the Council of Representatives at its next meeting.

As the representative of Tunisia stated at the meeting of the Council of Representatives on 16 June 1993, the Tunisian Government is implementing a vast economic reform programme undertaken with the co-operation of international financial institutions.

This far-reaching programme, accompanied by certain tariff adjustments, provides among other things for greater liberalization of our foreign trade. An important stage in the implementation of the liberalization programme will shortly be reached, namely that of subjecting much of local industry to foreign competition. Tariffs will thus become the essential instrument of protection for domestic industry.

It is in the context of this reorganization that the Tunisian authorities intend to introduce a temporary increase in customs duties for a limited number of tariff items. The new rates will be phased out over a three-year period. The list of tariff items and proposed rates are annexed.

The Tunisian Government therefore requests that, pursuant to Article XXV:5 of the General Agreement, its obligations under Article II of the General Agreement be waived to enable it to suspend the bound duties for the tariff items concerned.

The Tunisian authorities remain at the disposal of the contracting parties for any further information or clarification arising in connection with this request.