

**GENERAL AGREEMENT
ON TARIFFS AND TRADE**

L/7380
19 January 1994
Limited Distribution

(94-0091)

TUNISIA - TEMPORARY SUSPENSION OF BOUND DUTIES

Decision of 17 January 1994¹

Considering that the Government of Tunisia is implementing a vast economic reform programme undertaken with the co-operation of international financial institutions and that this programme, accompanied by certain tariff adjustment measures, provides inter alia for a liberalization of foreign trade;

Noting that this liberalization programme will consist in subjecting much of local industry to foreign competition and that tariffs will thus become the essential instrument of protection for domestic industry;

Considering that in the context of this re-organization the Tunisian authorities intend to introduce a temporary increase in customs duties for a limited number of tariff items and that the new rates will be phased out over a three-year period, the list of tariff items and proposed rates being contained in document L/7311;

Noting that, to this end, the Tunisian Government has requested 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;

Considering that the Tunisian authorities held consultations pursuant to Article XXVIII;

The CONTRACTING PARTIES, acting pursuant to the provisions of Article XXV:5 of the General Agreement,

Decide, in view of the exceptional circumstances described above, to waive the provisions of Article II of the General Agreement for the Tunisian Government for a three-year period from 1 January 1994 in order to enable it to suspend the bound duties on the products mentioned in document L/7311. The Tunisian Government undertakes to phase out annually over the next three years the increased customs duties.

¹The Decision was adopted by postal ballot. There were 69 votes in favour and none against.