

**GENERAL AGREEMENT
ON TARIFFS AND TRADE**

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EUROPE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA
AND THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY

Communication from the Parties to the Agreement

The delegations of the Republic of Bulgaria and the European Community have the honour to inform the CONTRACTING PARTIES that the Interim Agreement between the Republic of Bulgaria and the European Community came into force on 31 December 1993.¹

The trade agreement is part of the larger so-called "Europe Agreement" which was signed in Brussels on 8 March 1993, between the European Community and its Member States, on the one hand, and the Republic of Bulgaria, on the other. The "Europe Agreement" establishes an association between the Community and its Member States and the Republic of Bulgaria.

However, because the Europe Agreement still needs to be ratified by all national parliaments concerned, an Interim Agreement was equally signed in Brussels to enable the trade provisions to come into force on 31 December 1993. (These provisions are referred to above and are of relevance to the contracting parties.) They are covered by the Articles in Title III of the Europe Agreement.

The Interim Agreement contains all the trade provisions of the Europe Agreement that are of relevance to the contracting parties.

The object of the Interim Agreement is to gradually establish a free-trade area between the Community and the Republic of Bulgaria in the sense of Article XXIV of the General Agreement. This free-trade area will be established over a maximum period of ten years at the end of which duties and other restrictive regulations of commerce will have been eliminated on substantially all the trade between the signatories.

¹The text of the Interim Agreement is circulated in document L/7617/Add.1.