

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

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Multilateral Trade Negotiations

GROUP 3(e) - BASIC DOCUMENTATION

Inventory of Quantitative Import Restrictions Applied by Countries Covered by the Joint Working Group

Addendum

PORTUGAL

Note: The notifications concerning BTN numbers 03.03, 22.03 and 24.01 have been deleted.

Product: (BTN)	Country or group maintaining measures:	Countries indicating an interest:
Meat and edible offals ... (02.01)	Portugal	Argentina United States

(a) Description:

State trading.

Part of the heading is also subject to unspecified import restrictions
(02.01.01, 02.01.03).

(b) Comments by other countries:

(c) Comments by country maintaining the measures:

In Portugal the "National Livestock Products Board" is the body legally responsible for co-ordinating meat marketing, with a view to adapting imports to the shortfall between domestic production and consumption.

Imports are effected through public tenders, opened for sufficiently large quantities. Stocks are usually held in refrigerated warehouses belonging to the public sector, the storage costs being charged to the Board.

Product: (BTN)	Country or group maintaining measures:	Countries indicating an interest:
Meat and edible offals ... (02.01) (cont'd)	Portugal	Argentina United States

Imports have fluctuated widely and have tended to diminish in recent years. This indicates that domestic production has increased and has adjusted better to the increase in consumption.

Production subsidies exist in respect of cattle, for both meat and milk production. As regards production of pigmeat, the responsible body makes purchases in the market during peak production periods, with a view to reducing supply so as to adjust it better to demand and thus avoid wide price fluctuations. There are some guaranteed producer prices.

Having regard to the fact that the development of animal husbandry is one of the bases for restructuring the country's agriculture, it is not intended to eliminate the import restriction, all the more so because international trade is distorted through the effects of subsidies.

The authorities have already endeavoured to make trade in certain specific products very flexible and liberal, for example, trade in certain chilled meat and certain types of meat required for the preserving industry. Such imports are carried out by the traders or industrialists concerned; they are not in large quantities and consequently do not give rise to any difficulties for national production.

Reference: L/2981/Add.14
COM.AG/W/72/Add.47

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Product: (BTN)	Country or group maintaining measures:	Countries indicating an interest:
Fish, fresh (live or dead), chilled or frozen (03.01)	Portugal	Canada Japan

(a) Description:

Global quota: Cod, except frozen fillets (ex 03.01)

(b) Comments by other countries:

(c) Comments by country maintaining the measures:

(Applies also to 03.02 and 03.03.)

There are no restrictions on imports of crustaceans and molluscs. With respect to cod, unrestricted imports were allowed in recent years on an experimental basis, and at the same time retail price controls were lifted. The results were disappointing because excessively large stocks were built up and, because of inadequate storage facilities, they deteriorated so that, as a result, exceptional measures had to be taken for the protection of consumers. Since this product is of great importance in the food habits of the population, the solution to the very unsatisfactory situation arising out of this liberalization experiment was to establish a flexible system for the grant of import licences, with periodic adjustments to take account of domestic production and consumption forecasts as well as of available cold-storage capacity. The restriction is essentially designed to protect consumers and avoid unnecessary foreign exchange expenditure. Imports fluctuate depending on the result of the catch, but are always at fairly high levels.

Reference: L/2981/Add.14
COM.AG/W/72/Add.47

Product: (BTN)	Country or group maintaining measures:	Countries indicating an interest:
Fish, salted, in brine, dried, or smoked (03.02)	Portugal	Canada Japan

(a) Description:

Global quota for dried cod (03.02.01).

(b) Comments by other countries:

(c) Comments by country maintaining the measures:

(Applies also to 03.01 and 03.03.)

There are no restrictions on imports of crustaceans and molluscs. With respect to cod, unrestricted imports were allowed in recent years on an experimental basis, and at the same time retail price controls were lifted. The results were disappointing because excessively large stocks were built up and, because of inadequate storage facilities, they deteriorated so that, as a result, exceptional measures had to be taken for the protection of consumers. Since this product is of great importance in the food habits of the population, the solution to the very unsatisfactory situation arising out of this liberalization experiment was to establish a flexible system for the grant of import licences, with periodic adjustments to take account of domestic production and consumption forecasts as well as of available cold-storage capacity. The restriction is essentially designed to protect consumers and avoid unnecessary foreign exchange expenditure. Imports fluctuate depending on the result of the catch, but are always at fairly high levels.

Reference: L/2981/Add.14
COM.AG/W/72/Add.47

Product: (BTN)	Country or group maintaining measures:	Countries indicating an interest:
Milk and cream, preserved, concentrated or sweetened (04.02)	Portugal	Argentina United States

(a) Description:

Restriction (method unspecified).

Liberal licensing: Milk in containers ready for consumption (ex 04.02).

(b) Comments by other countries:

(c) Comments by country maintaining the measures:

(Applies also to 04.03.)

The justification for the quantitative restrictions on imports of these products derives from the support policy for stock-farming and more directly for milk production.

So far as milk is concerned, the restrictions mainly affect imports for industrial use; imports of milk put up for retail sale have been authorized regularly. In relation to domestic production, imports of milk are rather small. On the other hand, in certain years butter has been imported in fairly substantial quantities. There is a system of guaranteed prices for both milk and butter.

For the same reasons as already mentioned with respect to meat, the Government is not intending to eliminate the restrictions, which constitute the only means for defending domestic production against highly subsidized competition in international trade.

Reference: L/2981/Add.14
COM.AG/W/72/Add.47

Product: (BTN)	Country or group maintaining measures:	Countries indicating an interest:
Butter (04.03)	Portugal	Argentina United States

(a) Description:

Restriction (method unspecified).

(b) Comments by other countries:(c) Comments by country maintaining the measures:

(Applies also to 04.02)

The justification for the quantitative restrictions on imports of these products derives from the support policy for stock-farming and more directly for milk production.

So far as milk is concerned, the restrictions mainly affect imports for industrial use; imports of milk put up for retail sale have been authorized regularly. In relation to domestic production, imports of milk are rather small. On the other hand, in certain years butter has been imported in fairly substantial quantities. There is a system of guaranteed prices for both milk and butter.

For the same reasons as already mentioned with respect to meat, the Government is not intending to eliminate the restrictions, which constitute the only means for defending domestic production against highly subsidized competition in international trade.

Reference: L/2981/Add.14
COM.AG/W/72/Add.47

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Product: (BTN)	Country or group maintaining measures:	Countries indicating an interest:
Potatoes (07.01 A)	Portugal	Canada United States

(a) Description:

Licensing (unspecified): Seed potatoes (ex 07.01 A).

Discretionary licensing: Potatoes for consumption (ex 07.01 A).

(b) Comments by other countries:(c) Comments by country maintaining the measures:

A distinction must be made between seed potatoes and ware potatoes. Imports of seed potatoes are unrestricted except in the case of a few varieties which are not suited to the country's weather and soil conditions. In any event, there is no State trading. There are no import quotas for ware potatoes. Imports of these become necessary only when the domestic harvest falls short of current consumption requirements. Imports are effected by the trade, within the limits of specified ceilings, after the most favourable offers have been selected. In this selection, account is taken of certain variable factors such as price, variety, delivery date, etc. The purpose of the restriction on imports of ware potatoes is to ensure disposal of domestic production. Imports of ware potatoes fluctuate from year to year, but the volume of such imports is not very great in relation to production. With the exception of a few guaranteed prices which are fixed by the Government when the harvest is particularly abundant, no protection of any kind is afforded to domestic producers. It is not expected that this restriction can be eliminated.

Reference: L/2981/Add.14
COM.AG/W/72/Add.47

Product: (BTN)	Country or group maintaining measures:	Countries indicating an interest:
Wheat and meslin (10.01)	Portugal	Argentina United States

(a) Description:

Restriction (method unspecified).

State trading

(b) Comments by other countries:(c) Comments by country maintaining the measures:

(Applies also to 10.02, 10.03, 10.04, 10.05 and 10.06.)

- (i) Wheat and other bread grains and also rice are customarily imported by industrial associations, and sometimes by merchants themselves in the case of maize.

State participation consists of setting import quotas and making the final decision regarding purchases to be effected through public tenders. Imports of other cereals - barley and oats - are subject to licensing and are carried out by merchants.

- (ii) The quantitative restrictions are necessary in order to ensure disposal of cereal production on the domestic market.
- (iii) The volume of imports is substantial only for wheat, maize and rice, and of course depends on the size of the harvest. So far as rice is concerned, this is only of marginal importance.
- (iv) A guaranteed price and subsidies exist for wheat production.
- (v) The possibility of eliminating the restrictions is not contemplated.

Reference: L/2981/Add.14
COM.AG/W/72/Add.47

Product: (BTN)	Country or group maintaining measures:	Countries indicating an interest:
Rye (10.02)	Portugal	Argentina United States

(a) Description:

Restriction (method unspecified).

(b) Comments by other countries:

(c) Comments by country maintaining the measures:

(Applies also to 10.01, 10.03, 10.04, 10.05 and 10.06.)

- (i) Wheat and other bread grains and also rice are customarily imported by industrial associations, and sometimes by merchants themselves in the case of maize.

State participation consists of setting import quotas and making the final decision regarding purchases to be effected through public tenders. Imports of other cereals - barley and oats - are subject to licensing and are carried out by merchants

- (ii) The quantitative restrictions are necessary in order to ensure disposal of cereal production on the domestic market.
- (iii) The volume of imports is substantial only for wheat, maize and rice, and of course depends on the size of the harvest. So far as rice is concerned, this is only of marginal importance.
- (iv) A guaranteed price and subsidies exist for wheat production.
- (v) The possibility of eliminating the restrictions is not contemplated.

Reference: L/2981/Add.14
COM.AG/W/72/Add.47

Product: (BTN)	Country or group maintaining measures:	Countries indicating an interest:
Barley (10.03)	Portugal	Argentina Australia United States

(a) Description:

Licensing (method unspecified).

(b) Comments by other countries:(c) Comments by country maintaining the measures:

(Applies also to 10.01, 10.02, 10.04, 10.05 and 10.06.)

- (i) Wheat and other bread grains and also rice are ~~customarily imported by~~ industrial associations, and sometimes by merchants themselves in the case of maize.

State participation consists of setting import quotas and making the final decision regarding purchases to be effected through public tenders. Imports of other cereals - barley and oats - are subject to licensing and are carried out by merchants.

- (ii) The quantitative restrictions are necessary in order to ensure disposal of cereal production on the domestic market.
- (iii) The volume of imports is substantial only for wheat, maize and rice, and of course depends on the size of the harvest. So far as rice is concerned, this is only of marginal importance.
- (iv) A guaranteed price and subsidies exist for wheat production.
- (v) The possibility of eliminating the restrictions is not contemplated.

Reference: L/2981/Add.14
COM.AG/W/72/Add.47

Product: (BTN)	Country or group maintaining measures:	Countries indicating an interest:
Oats (10.04)	Portugal	Argentina United States

(a) Description:

Licensing (method unspecified).

(b) Comments by other countries:

(c) Comments by country maintaining the measures:

(Applies also to 10.01, 10.02, 10.03, 10.05 and 10.06.)

- (i) Wheat and other bread grains and also rice are customarily imported by industrial associations, and sometimes by merchants themselves in the case of maize.

State participation consists of setting import quotas and making the final decision regarding purchases to be effected through public tenders. Imports of other cereals - barley and oats - are subject to licensing and are carried out by merchants.

- (ii) The quantitative restrictions are necessary in order to ensure disposal of cereal production on the domestic market.
- (iii) The volume of imports is substantial only for wheat, maize and rice, and of course depends on the size of the harvest. So far as rice is concerned, this is only of marginal importance.
- (iv) A guaranteed price and subsidies exist for wheat production.
- (v) The possibility of eliminating the restrictions is not contemplated.

Reference: L/2981/Add.14
COM.AG/W/72/Add.47

Product: (BTN)	Country or group maintaining measures:	Countries indicating an interest:
Maize (10.05)	Portugal	Argentina United States

(a) Description:

Restriction (method unspecified).

State trading.

(b) Comments by other countries:

(c) Comments by country maintaining the measures:

(Applies also to 10.01, 10.02, 10.03, 10.04 and 10.06.)

- (i) Wheat and other bread grains and also rice are customarily imported by industrial associations, and sometimes by merchants themselves in the case of maize.

State participation consists of setting import quotas and making the final decision regarding purchases to be effected through public tenders. Imports of other cereals - barley and oats - are subject to licensing and are carried out by merchants.

- (ii) The quantitative restrictions are necessary in order to ensure disposal of cereal production on the domestic market.
- (iii) The volume of imports is substantial only for wheat, maize and rice, and of course depends on the size of the harvest. So far as rice is concerned, this is only of marginal importance.
- (iv) A guaranteed price and subsidies exist for wheat production.
- (v) The possibility of eliminating the restrictions is not contemplated.

Reference: L/2981/Add.14
COM.AG/W/72/Add.47

Product: (BTN)	Country or group maintaining measures:	Countries indicating an interest:
Rice (10.06)	Portugal	Argentina United States

(a) Description:

Restriction (method unspecified).

State trading.

(b) Comments by other countries:(c) Comments by country maintaining the measures:

(Applies also to 10.01, 10.02, 10.03, 10.04 and 10.05.)

- (i) Wheat and other bread grains and also rice are customarily imported by industrial associations, and sometimes by merchants themselves in the case of maize.

State participation consists of setting import quotas and making the final decision regarding purchases to be effected through public tenders. Imports of other cereals - barley and oats - are subject to licensing and are carried out by merchants.

- (ii) The quantitative restrictions are necessary in order to ensure disposal of cereal production on the domestic market.
- (iii) The volume of imports is substantial only for wheat, maize and rice, and of course depends on the size of the harvest. So far as rice is concerned, this is only of marginal importance.
- (iv) A guaranteed price and subsidies exist for wheat production.
- (v) The possibility of eliminating the restrictions is not contemplated.

Reference: L/2981/Add.14
COM.AG/W/72/Add.47

Product: (BTN)	Country or group maintaining measures:	Countries indicating an interest:
Cereal flours (11.01)	Portugal	United States

(a) Description:

Restriction (method unspecified).

State trading.

Licensing (unspecified): Flour packaged for retail sale. (ex 11.01)

(b) Comments by other countries:(c) Comments by country maintaining the measures:

- (i) Bread flour and flour for the manufacture of spaghetti and similar products are purchased by the same associations as bread grains (see item 10.01).

The existing restriction on imports of cereal flours is a consequence of the agricultural policy adopted for cereal production.

Flour put up for retail sale is imported directly by merchants, and is subject to a licensing system.

- (ii) The volume of imports is not substantial.

- (iii) There is no special protection for flour production.

- (iv) No relaxation of the restrictions can be considered unless there is a completely different cereal production structure.

Reference: L/2981/Add.14
COM.AG/W/72/Add.47

Product: (BTN)	Country or group maintaining measures:	Countries indicating an interest:
Starches, inulin (11.08)	Portugal	United States

(a) Description:

Restriction (method unspecified).

(b) Comments by other countries:

(c) Comments by country maintaining the measures:

- (i) Liberalization is not feasible, mainly because of external factors.

The domestic industry cannot compete with foreign producers operating under a liberal system because purchase prices of raw materials are much higher.

It is fairly well known that in this sector producers in some countries benefit from marginal prices in the context of agricultural surplus disposal, but this is not the case in Portugal.

- (ii) Imports are relatively small.
- (iii) There are no other protective measures.
- (iv) No elimination of the restrictions is contemplated, unless other measures were to be introduced in order to offset differences in the price of raw materials.

Reference: L/2981/Add.14
COM.AG/W/72/Add.47

Product: (BTN)	Country or group maintaining measures:	Countries indicating an interest:
Fixed vegetable oils (15.07)	Portugal	Argentina United States

(a) Description:

Discretionary licensing for olive oil and groundnut oil (ex 15.07).

(b) Comments by other countries:

(c) Comments by country maintaining the measures:

Measure is designed to regulate the flow of these items in the internal market. There are also health and sanitary regulations covering oil for human consumption.

Reference: L/2981/Add.14
COM.AG/W/68/Add.4
COM.AG/W/72/Add.47

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Product: (BTN)	Country or group maintaining measures:	Countries indicating an interest:
Beet sugar and cane sugar, solid (17.01)	Portugal	United States

(a) Description:

Global quota.

(b) Comments by other countries:(c) Comments by country maintaining the measures:

Supervision on a continuing basis is necessary because Portugal's sugar refining industry is subject to a special tax régime. Because of the existence of production quotas, allocated to factories in accordance with their industrial capacity and with domestic consumption, a quota system for raw sugar is necessary and liberalization is therefore not feasible. The operation of this industry is regulated by a legislative decree.

The restriction results from the particular conditions of the sugar refining industry and is not designed to afford protection to cultivation of this product. There is a little sugar production in Madeira but this is only of regional importance. All the sugar used by the refining industry is imported. As regards sugar that is already refined, imports are of an occasional character. There is no sugar cultivation. The refining industry does not enjoy any protection; it is even subject to a specific tax régime. The retail price of refined sugar is subject to a system of official approval, exclusively in order to protect the consumer. The sugar refining industry is at the present time in the course of reorganization, and a revision of the present system is under study.

Reference: L/2981/Add.14
COM.AG/W/72/Add.47