

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON  
TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

L/143/Corr.1\*  
1 October 1953

Limited Distribution

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EUROPEAN COAL AND STEEL COMMUNITY

Note by the Executive Secretary

Corrigendum

Page 9, second paragraph, first sentence is corrected to read:

"The new nomenclature for Treaty products, drawn up by the six governments, (see paragraph 9 of the Report of the member States), was not applied by Italy until 1 August 1953; at the present time it applies only to imports from the Community."

\* English only

GENERAL AGREEMENT  
ON TARIFFS AND  
TRADE

ACCORD GENERAL SUR  
LES TARIFS DOUANIERS  
ET LE COMMERCE

RESTRICTED  
L/143/Corr.2  
5 October 1953  
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Original: French

EUROPEAN COAL AND STEEL COMMUNITY

Note by the Executive Secretary

CORRIGENDUM

Appendix II, page 8, Germany, sub-paragraph 2

The first sentence "In agreement with the other..... 1 per cent" should read as follows:

"In agreement with the other member States, on the other hand, a rate of 1 per cent has been fixed for raw pig-iron with a maximum content of 1 per cent of vanadium and a maximum of 1 per cent of titanium".

COMMUNAUTE EUROPEENNE DU C. CARBON ET DE L'ACIER

Note du Secrétaire exécutif

CORRIGENDUM \*

Annexe II, page 8, Allemagne, alinéa 2

Le texte de la première phrase "D'accord avec les autres..... de 1 pour cent" doit se lire comme suit:

"D'accord avec les autres Etats membres on a fixé, par contre, pour les fontes brutes contenant au maximum 1 pour cent de vanadium et au maximum 1 pour cent de titane un taux de 1 pour cent."

\* Le Corrigendum 1 ne concerne que le texte anglais

# GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

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L/144

1 October 1953

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## AUSTRALIAN IMPORT RESTRICTIONS

### Statements submitted by the Australian Government on Relaxation of Restrictions

The attached statements made on 11 September 1953 by the Australian Prime Minister and the Minister of Trade and Customs on the Government's decision further to relax the restrictions on imports from countries other than those in the dollar area and Japan have been received from that Government.

#### STATEMENT BY THE PRIME MINISTER

1. The Government has decided to make a further relaxation of the restrictions on imports from all countries except the dollar countries. The relaxation will come into effect on 1 October.
2. Full details will be announced by Senator O'Sullivan. The main lines of relaxation are, however, as follows:
  - (a) Quotas for imports from the general group of countries (i.e. excluding the dollar countries and Japan) will be increased by a further 10 per cent of base year.
  - (b) An extensive list of essential items at present under administrative control will be licensed without restriction, subject only to the production of evidence that the goods can be imported within one year from the date of issue of the licence.
  - (c) The level of imports from Japan is to be raised in line with the increase in imports from other non-dollar countries.
3. These relaxations will in total allow an increase in imports of about £45 m. f.o.b. per annum.
4. The Treasurer referred in his Budget Speech to the great improvement in our balance of payments and the state of our international reserves that took place during 1952-53. It is in the light of this recovery,

and of our present favourable export prospects, that we have been able to undertake this further easing of import licensing controls. I think I might very well draw attention to the assurance we gave when import licensing controls were introduced early last year that they would be eased as and when our external finances should permit and also to the progressive easing which has been carried forward, step by step, over the past twelve months. We will again review export prospects early in the new year.

5. Two other decisions have also been made by the Government. One is that for the general run of licences, the quarterly licensing periods which have operated since the beginning of last year are to be superseded as from 1 October by 6 monthly periods. This will reduce the inconvenience to importers of frequent applications for import licences and in addition will give them greater flexibility in planning their requirements from overseas. This change of licensing period cannot be made as yet in relation to import licences for Japanese goods or, of course, dollar goods.

6. The other decision relates to the Tariff Board. The Government has decided to introduce a Bill which will provide for an increase in the membership of the Tariff Board from four to seven. This will permit the Board to divide into two groups of three which can meet concurrently under the general supervision of the Chairman. In addition the Government proposes to take all possible measures to streamline the procedures which the Tariff Board must follow.

7. The Government fully appreciates that Australian manufacturers in some fields have become apprehensive about overseas competition in our local markets. The process of gradual relaxation in our import restrictions which we have followed has given manufacturers time to approach the Tariff Board for higher duties if they believe this action is both necessary and justifiable. Nevertheless, it appears probable that, under present conditions, the number of applications to the Tariff Board for increased protection may rise. The proposals I have just referred to should enable the Board to deal expeditiously with any increase in the number of applications forwarded to it.

8. In regard to the import relaxations there are three further matters which I feel I should mention.

9. Firstly, we have been conscious and concerned that our recent imports from certain European countries, which are customarily large buyers of our products, especially wool, have been curtailed. This has been partly due to our import restrictions and partly to our anti-inflationary measures. However, these countries share fully in the relaxations of import restrictions, and the further easing of controls as from 1 October should substantially remove the hardships which have been involved.

10. Secondly, the Government has been concerned at the serious lack of balance which exists also in our trade with Japan. That country was the second largest buyer of our wool at last season's auctions. In 1952-53 our exports to Japan were valued at £84,000,000 whilst our imports were only £4,650,000. At the moment, Japan is acutely short of sterling. In our own interests it is obvious that this state of affairs cannot continue. It is for these reasons that the Government decided to raise the permitted level of imports from Japan in line with the increase in imports from other non-dollar countries.

11. Finally, I would like to mention gratefully the willing and helpful advice which the Members of the Consultative Committee on Import Policy have tendered to the Government.

STATEMENT BY THE MINISTER FOR TRADE AND CUSTOMS

SENATOR NEIL O'SULLIVAN

1. The Minister for Trade and Customs, Senator Neil O'Sullivan, today released details of the latest relaxation of the restrictions on imports from countries other than the dollar area and Japan which was announced by the Prime Minister. These relaxations will operate from 1 October 1953.
2. The level of licensing of Category "A" goods has been increased from 80 per cent to 90 per cent of imports during the financial year 1950/51.
3. The basis of licensing of Category "B" goods has been increased from 40 per cent to 50 per cent of base year imports.
4. A number of items have been put on a "no-quota restriction" basis of licensing. These items, details of which follow, will now be licensed without restriction, upon application to Collectors of Customs, provided importers can show that the goods are available for importation within one year. Most of the goods in this group were formerly under "Administrative" control:

Replacement parts for agricultural, horticultural, viticultural and dairying machinery and implements  
Replacement parts for motor cycles  
Replacement parts for motor vehicles  
Replacement parts for tractors  
Electrical insulating material  
Replacement parts for earth moving equipment  
Materials for manufacture of abrasive cloths and papers  
Navigation lamps and lanterns including parts therefor for use on ships  
Replacement parts for portable electric hand tools  
Replacement parts for air operated equipment and for air compressors  
Replacement parts for boot and show machines  
Replacement parts for diesel engines  
Replacement parts for printing machines and for paper and board making and working machines  
Replacement parts for textile and cordage machines (excluding card clothing, bobbins, cones, reels, spools and the like (wooden) as used in the spinning and weaving industries)  
Replacement parts for engines other than diesel engines  
Materials imported by and for use solely in industrial production by institutions for the blind

Articles for use in public and private practice of religion  
Replacement parts (excluding movements) for repair of watches and clocks  
Replacement parts for propelling pencils and for fountain pens other than ball point  
Leaf tobacco  
Coffee  
Hog casings (other than natural)  
Tea  
Aluminium and nickel, viz.: blocks, cubes, ingots, pigs, scrap and granulated  
Nickel angles, bars, pipes, plates, rods, sheets, strips, tees and tubes, not further manufactured than plated, polished or decorated  
Nickel alloy angles, bars, channels, pipes, plates, rods, sheets, strips, tees and tubes not further manufactured than plated, polished or decorated; nickel alloy wire  
Ball and roller bearings (except those for motor vehicles)  
Differential and certain other meters  
Furnace electrodes including nipples  
Coils for sugar boilers  
Steel balls for bearings  
Titanium dioxide  
Medicinal preparations  
Unexposed film  
Cinematograph films for general exhibition purposes, including trailers and stills  
Manilla paper for use in the manufacture of braille books  
Valves (other than the rubber sleeve type) for pneumatic tyres  
Articles for deaf, dumb and blind  
Blankets for printing machines; wire and paper makers' felts  
Antiques for public institutions  
Imported goods sent out of the Commonwealth for repair and subsequently reimported; goods from Papua and New Guinea sent to Australia for repair  
Reimported goods  
Bone sets and skeletons  
Paintings  
Pictorial illustrations, casts and models for teaching purposes  
Machinery, scientific instruments, apparatus and materials for use in universities and public educational institutions, metal furniture for public hospitals, imported under certain conditions

Artificial limbs  
Manganese and chrome ore  
Coir and ramie fibre  
Ferrous alloys  
Unmanufactured cotton waste  
Hides and skins (excluding undressed fur skins)  
Fibres other than of jute and flax  
Waste for caffeine  
Rosin  
Earths and clays  
Animal hair

5. In commenting upon the fact that licences will in future be issued on a six monthly rather than a quarterly basis, the Minister remarked that this change should facilitate the ordering of goods by importers and enable them to attain a more satisfactory stock position.

6. Finally, Senator O'Sullivan stated that, owing to the generous increases which had been made to importers' quotas since the beginning of the year, generally the stage had been reached where quotas were adequate and there were no longer very good grounds for the issue of licences in excess of quotas upon what has been known as "hardship" considerations. The Minister remarked that, in the future, special licences in excess of quotas would be issued only in exceptional cases.