

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

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CONTRACTING PARTIES
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BELGIAN IMPORT RESTRICTIONS

Note by the Belgian Delegation concerning the system of licensing taxes imposed in Belgium

1. At the plenary meeting of the sixteenth session of the CONTRACTING PARTIES held on 27 May 1960, the delegate for Belgium announced that a whole range of agricultural products (see annex) would be liberalized in the near future, but not later than 30 June 1960. He added that the Belgian Government, taking account of the situation of Belgian agriculture and the price levels for such products in the international market, had felt it necessary to provide for the possibility of levying licensing taxes on imports so as to be able to offset the possible effects of imports at abnormally low prices.
2. The legal basis for the above mentioned measures is to be found in the Royal Order of 29 April 1960 which institutes licensing taxes on imports of a number of agricultural products. The amounts indicated in the Order should be regarded as maximum rates and the competent Ministers determine by Ministerial Orders the precise levels of the taxes effectively levied.
3. The Ministerial Order of 3 April 1960 sets forth the levels of taxes at present imposed.
4. The rate of the tax which is effectively levied is determined on the basis of the difference existing between the level of prices for the product concerned in the international market and the target price fixed by the Belgian Government for the same product.
5. It should be noted that the target price is to be regarded as an indicative price, i.e. a price which is not necessarily reached in every circumstance. This therefore is in no way a price guaranteed by the Government.
6. As a result, the rate of the licensing tax does not vary in accordance with fluctuations in the international market but is only increased in cases where the difference between the actual price ruling in the international market and the target price is substantial. The Belgian Government is anxious thus to avoid disruptions in commercial import transactions.

ANNEX

| <u>Benelux Tariff</u> <u>Item No.</u> | <u>Brussels Nomenclature</u> <u>Heading No.</u> | <u>Description of products</u> |
|--|--|--|
| 3 (b) 1 | ex 01 02 a2 | Calves |
| 3 (b) 2 A | ex 01 02 a2 | Yearling bulls |
| 3 (b) 2 C | ex 01 02 a2 | Heifers |
| 3 (b) 3 | ex 01 02 a2 | Bulls |
| 3 (b) 4 | ex 01 02 a2 | Cows |
| 6 (b) | ex 01 03 a2 | Swine, other than pure-bred breeding animals |
| 13 (a) 1 | ex 02 01 a2 | Butchers' meat (beef and veal), fresh or chilled |
| <u>13 (c) a A</u> | ex 02 01 a3 | Butchers' meat (pork) excluding bacon and streaky pork, fresh or chilled |
| 17 | { ex 02 01 a3 02 05 a | Streaky pork Bacon |
| 18 | 02 06 a | Meat, salted, in brine, dried or smoked |
| 27 (a) 1 | 04 05 a1 | Eggs in the shell, of poultry |