

# GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

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## EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY

### Statement by the Representative of Greece on 12 March 1964

In taking the floor immediately after the representative of the European Economic Community, I do so first according to a certain right of priority, Greece having been the first country to associate itself with the Common Market, and secondly because my country would be lacking in courtesy towards the contracting parties if it failed to furnish them with the information which they are entitled to expect on the implementation of the association agreement between Greece and the Six.

As you know, the association agreement became effective on 1 November 1962, after all the national constitutional formalities had been complied with. It has, therefore, been applicable for only sixteen months and this period is clearly too short to permit any real evaluation of the economic and commercial repercussions of the association arrangement, particularly since the data so far available are incomplete and fragmentary.

The progressive dismantlement of customs duties and other restrictive regulations on trade has commenced according to the plan and programme provided for in the association agreement. When imported into the member States of the Community, Greek industrial products are granted intra-Community treatment, i.e. the accelerated tariff reduction of 60 per cent as compared with the duties applied in 1957. They also benefit from the complete elimination of quantitative restrictions. In addition, the agricultural products of particular interest to Greece, as listed in Annex III to the agreement, enjoy a 40 per cent or 45 per cent reduction, depending on whether or not they have been liberalized. Some of them also benefit from quota disarmament measures. As regards Greece's three main exports - tobacco, raisins and wines - a 50 per cent reduction is granted on tobacco, a 70 per cent reduction on raisins, and the quotas for wines provided for under the agreement have been opened.

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A 10 per cent tariff reduction is granted on imports into Greece of Community manufactures, with the exception of the products listed in Annex I to the agreement, which are at present being manufactured in Greece, and to which the twenty-two year tariff disarmament plan applies. There is a 5 per cent tariff reduction on these products. As regards agricultural products, those listed in Annex III benefit from a 10 per cent reduction, and a 5 per cent to 10 per cent reduction is applied on those included in Protocol No. 13 annexed to the association agreement.

In connexion with the harmonization of the Greek agricultural policy with that of the Community, the declarations provided for in Article 35 were made on 12 November 1962, enabling the harmonization procedure to commence with the regulations adopted by the Community in 1962 on five products, namely cereals, pork, poultry meat, eggs, and fruit and vegetables. The work of defining the harmonization of this group of products is in hand.

No action has yet been taken by Greece with respect to its adoption of the common customs tariff, the first approximation of duties not being due until 1 November 1965.

Lastly, and although this is not a matter of direct concern to the General Agreement, I think it might be useful to mention here the financial aspect of the association agreement which is one of its essential components. In this respect, the European Investment Bank has so far approved the partial financing of five investment projects, to a total amount of \$23 million.