

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

L/2400
17 March 1965

Limited Distribution

CONTRACTING PARTIES
Twenty-Second Session

Original: French

EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY

Statement by the representative of Greece on the Implementation of the Agreement establishing an Association between Greece and the European Economic Community

I have asked to take the floor immediately after the distinguished representative of the European Economic Community in order to complete the picture which he has give you of developments in the Community by a short statement on the implementation of the Athens Agreement under which Greece has been associated with the Common Market since 1 November 1962.

The progressive dismantlement of customs duties and other restrictive regulations on trade, which commenced between Greece and the Community in 1962, continued in 1964, in accordance with the plan and schedule provided for in the association agreement.

When imported into the member States of the Community, Greek industrial products are granted, as from 1 January 1965, a 70 per cent tariff reduction as compared with the duties applied in 1957. Since 1 November 1962, when the Agreement came into force, they have benefited from complete elimination of quantitative restrictions.

The agricultural products of particular interest to Greece, which are listed in Annex III to the Agreement, enjoy a 50 per cent or 55 per cent reduction, depending on whether or not they have been liberalized in intra-community trade. In addition, many of them also benefit from quota disarmament measures. As regards Greece's three main export products, an 80 per cent tariff reduction is granted on raisins and a 60 per cent reduction on tobacco. The quotas for wines provided for under the Agreement were opened in 1963 and were increased in 1964.

The Community's industrial products when imported into Greece, are, as a general rule, granted a 20 per cent tariff reduction. Industrial products listed in Annex I to the Agreement, i.e. products covered by the long-term tariff dismantlement plan extending over a twenty-two year period, in accordance with Article 15 are granted a 5 per cent tariff reduction.

In the agricultural sector, the tariff reduction amounts to 20 per cent for products in Annex III and 5 or 10 per cent for products referred to in Protocol 13, namely those of export interest to the member States of the Community.

./.

As regards the harmonization of the Greek agricultural policy with that of the Community, work is in progress with respect to the five regulations adopted by the Community in 1962, namely the regulations on cereals, pigmeat, poultry meat, eggs, and fruit and vegetables.

No action has yet been taken with respect to the adoption by Greece of the Common customs tariff.

Thus, the implementation of the Association Agreement between Greece and the Common Market is faithfully following the plan and schedule submitted to the CONTRACTING PARTIES.

Progressively, and within the prescribed time limits, this process will lead to the establishment between the parties to the Athens Agreement of a customs union, in conformity with the provisions of Article XXIV of the General Agreement.