

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON
TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

L/4379

23 July 1976

Limited Distribution

Original: French

CO-OPERATION AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC
COMMUNITY AND TUNISIA

The Permanent Delegation of the Commission of the European Communities has advised, by a communication dated 13 July 1976, as follows.

I have the honour to enclose for the attention of the Contracting Parties the text of the following Agreements signed in Tunis on 25 April 1976¹:

- Co-operation Agreement between the European Economic Community and the Republic of Tunisia;
- Agreement between the member States of the European Coal and Steel Community and the Republic of Tunisia.

In addition an Interim Agreement signed on the same day permits the advance implementation as from 1 July 1976, of the provisions relating to trade in goods between the European Economic Community and Tunisia.

These Agreements, which are of an unlimited duration, lay down detailed rules for overall co-operation between the partners, thus putting into effect the intention written into Article 14 of the 1969 Association Agreement of concluding a new agreement on a wider basis. The Agreements therefore constitute further implementation of the 1957 Declaration of Intent annexed to the Treaty of Rome on the independent countries of the franc area, and fall within the very specific context of the historical and geographical background to the relations between the Parties.

¹A copy of the text of these legal instruments will be sent in due course to each contracting party.

As from the entry into force of the trade provisions of the Agreements, the Community is respecting the obligation to eliminate duties and other restrictive regulations of commerce with respect to substantially all its trade with Tunisia.

Having regard to Tunisia's current level of economic development and its requirements in this connexion and because of the need to ensure a better balance in trade with the Community, the Agreements do not entail at this stage any reciprocal free-trade obligation. They are thus consonant with the principles set forth in Part IV of the General Agreement.

The Community is convinced that the objectives of economic development and more balanced trade relations, which the partners have set themselves in these Agreements of unlimited duration, are fully in line with the attainment of the objectives underlying the General Agreement and motivating action by the Contracting Parties and that the provisions laid down to this end are consistent with those of the General Agreement. The Community accordingly requests that the Agreements which it has concluded with Tunisia be examined as such, on their own merits, by the Contracting Parties having regard to the objectives as a whole of the General Agreement.