

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON
TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

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EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITIES: EXPORT MEASURES ON BOVINE MEAT

Australian Request for Consultations under Article XXII:1

The following communication dated 2 December 1976, together with the text of a letter dated 2 December 1976 addressed to the delegation of the Commission of the European Communities in Geneva, are being circulated to contracting parties at the request of the permanent mission of Australia.

On instructions from my authorities, and as required by paragraph 1 of the procedures adopted by the Contracting Parties on 10 November 1958, I have been asked to inform you for the information of all Contracting Parties that Australia is seeking Article XXII:1 consultations with the European Economic Community concerning the manner in which the Community has been, and is, subsidizing its exports of bovine meat.

I attach a copy of a communication which I have today addressed to the Commission of the European Economic Communities in Geneva. I would be grateful if that communication, together with this letter, could be circulated for the information of the Contracting Parties.

Text of letter addressed to the delegation of the Commission of the European Economic Communities in Geneva:

This letter is to confirm my earlier oral advice that the Australian Government desires to consult under the provisions of GATT Article XXII:1 with the member States of the European Economic Community, through the Commission, concerning the manner in which the Community has been, and is, subsidizing its exports of bovine meat.

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In recent years the Community has increased substantially the level of restitution payments applicable to Community exports of bovine meats. This has resulted in substantial increases in the volume of Community beef exports to an increasing number of third country markets and a progressive increase in the Community's share of world export trade in beef which is seriously prejudicing the interests of the Australian beef industry.

It is desired that the consultations be held in Geneva as soon as convenient after the expiry of the forty-five day period provided for in the Decision of the Contracting Parties of 10 November 1958 on Article XXII procedures.

I am sending a copy of this request to the Director-General of GATT for the information of the Contracting Parties.