

# GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

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## STATE TRADING

### Notifications Pursuant to Article XVII:4(a)

#### Tunisia

The following notification has been received from the Permanent Mission of Tunisia.

#### 1. Organizations and products

The public institutions and organizations listed below have an import or an export monopoly, and in some cases both an import and export monopoly.

##### - Import monopolies

Organization	Products concerned
Office des céréales	Cereals and derivatives
Office du commerce de la Tunisie	Bananas, apples, pears, coffee, sugar, tea, pepper
Pharmacie centrale de Tunisie	Medicaments and pharmaceutical products
Régie nationale des tabacs et des allumettes	Unmanufactured and manufactured tobacco
Société tunisienne des industries laitières (STIL)	Milk, butter, cheese, beverages
Société "ELLOUHOUM"	Animals of the bovine species and sheep for slaughter; meat of bovine animals and of sheep
Office de l'huile	Vegetable oils
ETAP	Petroleum and derivatives

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- Export monopolies

Organization	Products concerned
Office des céréales	Cereals and derivatives
Office national de l'huile	Olive oil
Office national du vin	Wine
Entreprise tunisienne d'activités pétrolières (ETAP)	Petroleum and petroleum products

2. Criteria for monopoly products

The nature of a product is a basic element for its inclusion in an import or export monopoly.

Actually, this means:

- either mass-consumption products, where the object of the monopoly is to prevent prices at the level of distribution from exceeding certain limits - the case of coffee, tea, sugar, fruit and meat.

- or products which account for an appreciable share of the country's earnings and which therefore require continuing support for their disposal on foreign markets, such as olive oil, wine ...

- or products which have an impact of some significance on the State's budget and which therefore call for particular control on the part of the Administration; for example, tobacco, beverages, medicaments ...

3. Functioning of these organizations

The products concerned are imported exclusively by the monopoly-holding organization.

Nevertheless, these organizations are authorized to delegate the exercise of their monopoly to other, specialized enterprises under agreements previously approved by the ministries responsible for their supervision.

Since purchases and sales of the above-mentioned products have a significant impact on Tunisia's foreign-exchange resources, decisions concerning purchases and sales are the responsibility of a commission named after the organization concerned.

Each commission consists of the managing directors of the importing or exporting organization and four senior officials representing the departments concerned by the commercial transaction.

