

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

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ASSOCIATION AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY AND GREECE

Communication from the Parties to the Agreement

Information for the Contracting Parties to GATT

1. Progress towards the attainment of the customs union established by the Agreement instituting an Association between Greece and the European Economic Community continued during the years 1976 and 1977.

As already reported in the previous communication¹, since 1 July 1968, when customs duties were entirely eliminated within the Six-member Community, Greek industrial products have been admitted into the Community in its original membership free of customs duties and of charges having equivalent effect. In addition, since 1 November 1962, quantitative restrictions on these products have been abolished.

Greek agricultural products listed in Annex III to the Association Agreement enjoy the same tariff treatment as the original EEC member States apply among themselves, that is to say a 100 per cent reduction in the basic duties. In general these are products of particular interest to Greece.

In addition, in accordance with the time-tables set by the Athens Agreement, since 1 November 1974 Greece has been applying total tariff exemption in respect of industrial products imported from the original Community and subject to a dismantlement period of twelve years.

On the other hand, industrial products subject to the twenty-two year tariff dismantlement period (i.e. products listed in Annex I to the Agreement) benefit since 1 May 1977 from a tariff reduction of 52 per cent of the basic duties when imported into Greece. On 1 November 1978 Greece brought into effect a further reduction of these duties so that the aggregate reduction is now 60 per cent.

¹See document L/4420 of 29 October 1976.

Similarly, with respect to imports of agricultural products from the Community as originally constituted, Greece grants duty reductions in accordance with the time-table and categories provided in the Association Agreement. Accordingly, on the products listed in Annex III, the duty reduction process (subject to a twelve-year tariff dismantlement period) was completed on 1 November 1974. In the case of products listed in Protocol 13 (meat, fish, poultry, dairy products, etc.), Greece applies to imports of these products from the original member States of the EEC a 20 per cent reduction of the basic duties. Larger reductions are applied on ham (40 per cent), European-type cheeses (35 per cent) and butter (30 per cent).

2. For the remaining agricultural products, the standstill régime is applied by both the original Community and Greece.

3. Under the Additional Protocol signed on 28 April 1975, the new member States of the Community have carried out full tariff dismantlement in regard to Greece which was completed on 1 July 1977. Similarly, since 1 July Greece has been applying identical treatment to imports from all the member States of the Community.

4. So far as the elimination of quantitative restrictions is concerned, since 1 November 1972 Greece has bound the liberalization equivalent to 80 per cent of its private imports from the Community for the year 1958. In addition, the quotas for non-liberalized products opened for the Community have continued to be increased by 20 per cent each eighteen months (Article 26:5).

5. The Greek customs tariff is being aligned by stages with the common customs tariff of the Community. For products subject to the twelve-year transitional period (Article 20, paragraph 1, of the Association Agreement for industrial products and Article 38 of that Agreement for agricultural products listed in Annex III), the common customs tariff has been fully applicable since 1 November 1974.

As regards products subject to the twenty-two year transitional period (products listed in Annex I), two approximations have been made effective, on 1 May 1970 and 1 November 1975 respectively. The first of these reduced by 20 per cent the difference between the Greek tariff and the CCT and the second reduced by 30 per cent the difference between the tariff resulting from the first approximation and the CCT, representing an aggregate reduction of the difference by 44 per cent. Nevertheless, for products on which the difference after the first approximation was less than 15 per cent, the CCT has been in effect since 1 November 1975. The next approximation will take place on 1 November 1979.

As already noted in the previous communication, the progressive alignment of the Greek customs tariff and the common customs tariff of the Community will eventually result, to a large extent, in a reduction in the customs duties applied by Greece on imports from countries other than the members of the Association.

6. Annexed hereto is a table showing the development of the foreign trade of Greece in the period 1962-1974.

THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE FOREIGN TRADE OF GREECE

1962-1977

(\$ million)

Year	Total	Nine-member EEC	Changes %	Third countries	Changes %
<u>Imports</u>					
1962	701	396	100	305	100
1963	804	414	5	390	28
1964	885	479	21	406	33
1965	1,134	585	48	549	80
1966	1,223	638	61	585	92
1967	1,187	652	65	535	75
1968	1,390	753	90	637	109
1969	1,594	826	109	768	152
1970	1,958	976	146	982	222
1971	2,098	1,067	169	1,031	238
1972	2,350	1,287	225	1,063	249
1973	3,571	1,739	339	1,832	501
1974	4,386	1,897	379	2,489	716
1975	5,317	2,261	471	3,056	902
1976	6,013	2,387	503	3,626	1,089
1977	6,778	2,878	627	3,900	1,179
<u>Exports</u>					
1962	248	114	100	134	100
1963	290	120	5	170	27
1964	309	140	23	169	26
1965	328	149	31	179	34
1966	406	170	49	236	91
1967	495	226	98	269	101
1968	468	243	113	225	68
1969	554	277	143	277	107
1970	644	335	194	309	131
1971	663	350	207	313	134
1972	871	457	301	414	209
1973	1,280	799	601	481	259
1974	2,038	1,025	799	1,013	656
1975	2,293	1,139	899	1,154	761
1976	2,543	1,271	1,015	1,272	849
1977	2,724	1,300	1,040	1,424	963

Source: Statistical Office of the European Communities.