

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

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AGREEMENTS BETWEEN THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES AND AUSTRIA

Information Furnished by the Parties to the Agreements

This report covers the period from 1 October 1977 until 30 September 1979.

The Free Trade Agreement between the EEC and Austria, which entered into force on 1 January 1973, and the FTA between member States of the ECSC, and the ECSC on the one hand, and Austria, on the other hand, which entered into force on 1 January 1974 have functioned normally and have been applied in accordance with their provisions.

The objective of the Agreements is to eliminate progressively the obstacles to substantially all the trade between the parties, in accordance with the provisions of the GATT concerning the establishment of free-trade areas.

The main results are as follows:

1. Since 1 July 1977 almost all industrial products are traded free of duty between the parties to the Agreement. For the tariff treatment of other products, see paragraph 3 below.
2. On the date of entry into force of the Agreements no quantitative import restrictions regarding products covered by the Agreements, except those which Ireland is allowed to maintain in accordance with Protocol No. 4 to the Agreement EEC-Austria and those which Austria is allowed to maintain in accordance with Protocol No. 5 of the Agreement EEC-Austria and Protocol No. 2 to the Agreement ECSC-Austria, existed between the parties, nor were any such restrictions introduced during the period under review.
3. Protocol No. 1 to the Agreement EEC-Austria and ECSC-Austria foresees a slower than normal rhythm of tariff reduction for certain sensitive products, and Protocol No. 2 to the Agreement EEC-Austria provides for tariff reductions on processed agricultural products. Both Protocols have been applied as foreseen.

4. The rules of origin in Protocol No. 3 to the Agreement EEC-Austria which determine the eligibility of products for the tariff reduction under the Agreements have been applied as foreseen. In accordance with the provisions of this Protocol the rules have, in specific cases, been amended and supplemented in order to facilitate their implementation and application, (see Annex)

5. The two Joint Committees established to administer and supervise the implementation of the Agreements and also to act as a forum for the information and consultation procedures foreseen in the Agreements, have taken a certain number of decisions which provide for the simplification of the procedures of administrative co-operation and documentation.

6. Commercial incidence

Approximately 93 per cent of the imports of the Communities from Austria are covered by the Agreements. On exports from the Communities to Austria this figure is 95 per cent.

Volume of commercial exchanges EC/Austria in millions of EUR¹

- Imports to the EC from Austria:

1977:	4,333
1978:	5,080

- Exports to Austria from the EC:

1977:	8,206
1978:	8,408

¹Source: EEC Statistical Office.

ANNEX

List of Decisions of the Joint Committees
under the FTAs on Origin Matters

EEC-AUSTRIA

Subject	Decision No.	Official Journal of the EC No.
Supplementing and amending Protocol No. 3 and replacing certain Decisions of the Joint Committee (A consolidated text of Protocol No. 3 and amendments to Lists A and B as a consequence of the recommended amendments to the Customs Co-operation Council Nomenclature.)	1/77	L/341/77
Derogation from the provisions of List A for tariff heading No. Ex 38.19	2/77	L/341/77
Amended value limits for minor consignments, smaller packages of no commercial purpose and travellers' duty-free imports	1/78	L/376/78