

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

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AGREEMENTS BETWEEN THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES AND FINLAND

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 Finland, which entered into force on 1 January 1974, and the FTA between member States of the ECSC and the ECSC, on the one hand, and Finland, on the other hand, which entered into force on 1 January 1975, 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-Finland and those which Finland is allowed to maintain in accordance with Protocol No. 5 of the Agreement EEC-Finland and Protocol No. 1 to the Agreement ECSC-Finland, existed between the parties nor were any such restrictions introduced during the period under review.
3. Protocol No. 1 of the Agreement EEC-Finland foresees a slower than normal rhythm of tariff reduction for certain sensitive products, and Protocol No. 2 to the Agreement EEC-Finland 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-Finland 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 94 per cent of the imports of the Communities from Finland are covered by the Agreements. On exports from the Communities to Finland this figure is 97 per cent.

Volume of commercial exchanges EC/Finland in millions of EUR¹

- Imports to the EC from Finland:

1977: 2,750

1978: 2,965

- Exports to Finland from the EC:

1977: 2,138

1978: 2,066

¹Source: EEC Statistical Office

ANNEX

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

EEC-Finland

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/343/77
Derogation from the provisions of List A for tariff heading No. Ex 38.19	2/77	L/343/77
Amended value limits for minor consignments, smaller packages of no commercial purpose and travellers' duty-free imports	1/78	L/376/78