

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON  
TARIFFS AND TRADE

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ACP/EEC CONVENTION OF LOME

Communication by the Parties to the Convention

The following communication, dated 9 June 1980, has been received from the Parties to the Convention.

In accordance with the undertaking entered into in July 1976 to submit to the GATT CONTRACTING PARTIES a report on the implementation of the ACP-EEC Convention of Lomé every two years, we are pleased to attach, on behalf of the States signatory to that Convention, the report covering the period 1976 to 1977.

The belated submission of this report stems from the fact that the Parties to the Lomé Convention have since 1978 been fully occupied with the negotiations for the second ACP-EEC Convention, signed in Lomé on 31 October 1979, and thereafter with the examination of the transitional measures required to cover the period between the expiry of the first Lomé Convention, on 1 March 1980, and the entry into force of the second ACP-EEC Convention of Lomé.

We would like to take this opportunity to inform you that the European Economic Community on the one hand and the ACP Group of States on the other intend to forward to you in the near future, for the attention of the CONTRACTING PARTIES, the text of the second ACP-EEC Convention.

INFORMATION ON THE LOMÉ CONVENTION  
FOR GATT CONTRACTING PARTIES

1. This communication from the Parties to the Lomé Convention covers the period 1976/1977.

2. The Signatories to the Lomé Convention would first of all point out that the Convention signed on 28 February 1975 came into force on 1 April 1976. It should be noted that the trade provisions of the Convention (Title I, Chapter I) were brought into effect earlier, on 1 July 1975, pending completion of the ratification procedures.

3. The trade provisions, which are only one aspect of the Convention, involve the abolition by the Community of its customs duties and other trade restrictions on the bulk of its trade with the ACP. Given their development requirements and the principles stated in Part IV of the General Agreement, the ACP States are not subject to the same obligations as the Community in the tariff and non-tariff sectors.

4. In accordance with the provisions contained in the trade section of the Convention, the Parties proceeded as follows:

- the European Economic Community removed customs duties and quantitative restrictions from the bulk of its ACP-originating imports of agricultural products falling within Chapters 1 to 24 of the CCT and from all its ACP-originating imports of products falling within Chapters 25 to 99. Among the products of major importance for the economies of the ACP States, mention may be made of: tropical agricultural products, fisheries products, wood products, skins, hides and leather, and other manufactured goods;
- the ACP States in their turn granted the Community treatment no less favourable than most-favoured-nation treatment, except where trade between ACP States and other developing countries was concerned.

With regard to the agricultural products covered by Chapters 1 to 24 of the CCT which are not exempted from customs duties and other restrictions, the Community is taking the necessary measures to ensure, as a general rule, more favourable treatment than the general treatment applicable to the same products originating in third countries to which the most-favoured-nation clause applies, in accordance with Article 2(2)(a)(ii) of the Lomé Convention.

5. No substantial changes were made to the trade arrangements during the period under review. The ACP-EEC Council of Ministers granted certain limited, temporary derogations from the rules of origin provided for in the Convention (Article 27 of the Protocol on origin), to resolve certain specific problems.

6. Among the other provisions which are not strictly part of the trade provisions of the Convention, mention must be made of the results of STABEX during the period in question:

- transfers effected in 1976 in respect of 1975 amounted to 72.8 million EUA for 9 categories of products and 18 ACP States;
- transfers effected in 1977 in respect of 1976 amounted to 37.1 million EUA for 17 categories of products and 13 ACP States;
- during the period under review STABEX was extended to the following products: vanilla, cloves, pyrethrum, wool, mohair, gum arabic, ylang-ylang.

7. The tables in Annexes A and B show the development of trade between the ACP States and the Community.

8. Since the Lomé Convention was signed on 28 February 1975, the number of ACP States has risen from 46 to 55, <sup>1/</sup> This is the result of accessions by newly independent States (Article 90 of the Lomé Convention) and newly independent overseas countries and territories (Article 89 of the Convention). The Parties to the Lomé Convention informed the GATT Contracting Parties of the dates when the trade provisions would become applicable. The following countries have acceded to the Lomé Convention (the list includes accessions subsequent to the period covered by this report).

New ACP Countries	Date of accession to the Convention	Article of the Convention	Application of the trade provisions	Progress made with ratification
Suriname	16.7.76	89	16.7.76	-
Seychelles	27.8.76	89	27.8.76	-
Comoros	13.9.76	89	13.9.76	-
Cape Verde	28.3.77	90	1.5.77	completed
Sao Tome and Principe	28.3.77	90	1.5.77	completed
Papua New Guinea	28.3.77	90	1.5.77	completed
Djibouti	2.2.7	89	2.2.78	-
Solomon Is.	27.9.78	89	27.9.78	-
Tuvalu	17.2.79	89		

<sup>1/</sup> Procedures for the accession of Dominica are underway.

9. Pursuant to Article 91 of the Lomé Convention, eighteen months before the date of expiry of the Convention (1 March 1980) the Parties entered into negotiations in order to examine what provisions should subsequently govern ACP-EEC relations.

ANNEX A

EEC-ACP Trade by Category of Product

EEC imports of ACP origin		EEC exports to ACP States	
1976	1977	1976	1977
2,921,678	4,664,436	943,467	1,224,444
3,362,306	3,492,744	253,632	390,555
2,302,511	2,502,365	113,733	148,741
131,186	211,527	1,060,263	1,297,278
43,377	43,721	4,872,006	6,208,560
1,293,113	1,405,413	2,378,961	3,009,350
127,175	143,942	101,684	180,802
10,181,346	12,464,148	9,723,746	12,459,730

Note: The differences between the totals in Annexes A and B are due to the use of different sources.

ANNEX B

EEC-ACP TRADE

'000 EUA

	1976	1977
<u>EEC imports of ACP origin</u>		
Chapters 1 to 24 of the CCT	3,458,805	5,268,480
Chapters 25 to 99 of the CCT	6,540,883	7,192,345
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>9,999,688</b>	<b>12,460,825</b>
<u>EEC exports to the ACP</u>		
Chapters 1 to 24 of the CCT	984,367	1,290,853
Chapters 25 to 99 of the CCT	8,615,520	11,212,292
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>9,599,887</b>	<b>12,503,145</b>