

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON
TARIFFS AND TRADE

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ITALY - DEPOSIT REQUIREMENT FOR PURCHASES OF FOREIGN CURRENCY

The following communication, dated 19 June 1981, has been received from the Permanent Mission of Italy.

I have the honour to forward to you herewith a copy of the text of the Ministerial Decree concerning the deposit requirement in respect of purchases of foreign currency in Italy, which was the subject of verbal communications by the delegations of Italy and of the EEC Commission on the occasion of the last meeting of the GATT Council.

An unofficial translation into French of the provisions of the decree is also attached.¹

The Italian delegation is at the disposal of the contracting parties for any further information and details.

¹ A copy of the text of the Ministerial Decree in Italian is available for consultation in the GATT secretariat, Centre William Rappard. The unofficial translation of the text submitted by the Italian delegation is reproduced in the Annex.

Ministerial Decree of 27 May 1981 on Purchases
of Foreign Currency in Italy

The Minister for Foreign Trade, in agreement with the Minister for Finance and the Minister for the Treasury, hereby decrees:

Article 1

Purchases of foreign currency, whether cash or forward, by residents for the settlement of foreign transactions covered by a general or individual authorization shall be subject to the lodging, by the residents concerned or by other residents for the account of the former, of a non-interest-bearing deposit in Italian lire with a bank acting for the account of the Bank of Italy, and in specific relation with foreign transactions; such deposit shall be frozen for a period of ninety days and shall be equivalent to 30 per cent of the amount in Italian lire used for purchase of the foreign currency.

The deposit requirement shall apply to foreign payments in settlement of the above-mentioned transactions, effected through the debit of foreign exchange accounts or through the credit of lire accounts of non-residents.

Banks acting for the account of the Bank of Italy shall transfer daily to the latter the amount of the deposits thus lodged.

Article 2

The deposit requirement referred to in Article 1 shall terminate on 1 October 1981.

Article 3

The following transactions shall be exempt from the deposit requirement:

- purchases of securities issued by the EIB and by the ECSC and approved for sale in Italy;
- reimbursement and interest payments in respect of loans received from abroad;
- payments to non-residents of pensions and savings, other social insurance benefits, subsistence allowances due under the law;
- transfers of salary to Italian officials abroad;
- allowances to persons emigrating, within the established limits of 5 million lire per person, in addition to the tourist allowance;
- payments on special authorized accounts financed with funds of foreign origin for debts covered by specific authorizations;

- allocation, effected by crediting foreign accounts, of credits under Law No. 227 of 24 May 1977;
- transfers of savings out of occupational earnings;
- social benefits to immigrants;
- postal settlements with other countries;
- payments for imports of newspapers and periodicals;
- credits, on foreign accounts of maritime and air transport companies, of receipts from the sale of passenger tickets;
- payments, in favour of foreign maritime or air transport companies, of freight charges for the transport of goods;
- indemnity payments by insurance companies in respect of third-party liability of residents vis-à-vis non-residents;
- foreign transfers under court decisions;
- payments for ships' provisions refitting and bunkering;
- Italian capital investments abroad, when subject to or exempted from the deposit established under the Ministerial Decrees of 7 August 1978 and 12 March 1981;
- payments effected through authorized accounts;
- allocations of loans granted by medium-term credit institutions and intended for the financing of Italian exports;
- allocation of credits granted by approved foreign intermediaries and contributing to the creation of assets of those foreign intermediaries in foreign currency or in lire;
- transfers effected through the Italian Exchange Bureau;
- reimbursement of compulsory financing in foreign currency for advance payment of imports;
- allowances in foreign currency in respect of studies, business travel, medical care, subsistence.

Article 4

The following shall likewise be exempt from the deposit requirement: payments in respect of imports of wheat (tariff heading 10.01), of crude petroleum (tariff heading 27.09), of artificial kidneys and parts thereof, blood-based products and all payments in an amount not exceeding Lit 100,000.

Article 5

Implementing provisions for this decree, and likewise any future exceptions, shall be communicated by the Ministry of Foreign Trade.

Article 6

This decree shall be published in the Official Gazette of the Italian Republic and shall enter into force on the day of its publication.

Rome, 27 May 1981

The Minister for Foreign Trade
MANCA

The Minister for Finance
REVIGLIO

The Minister for the Treasury
ANDREATTA

