

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

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EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES - AGREEMENTS WITH AUSTRIA AND FINLAND ON CHEESES

The following communication, dated 7 July 1982, has been received from the Permanent Delegation of the European Communities.

I have the honour to notify you - under paragraph 3 of the Memorandum of Understanding regarding Notification, Consultation, Dispute Settlement and Surveillance - of agreements on cheeses which the Community has concluded with Finland and Austria.

EEC - Austria Agreement

A temporary joint discipline arrangement between Austria and the European Economic Community on mutual trade in cheeses entered into force on 1 January 1982.

The purpose of the arrangement, which will apply for an initial period of three years (1.1.1982-31.12.1984), is to stabilize trade at the traditional level (taking account of the Community's enlargement to ten member States) and to re-establish and maintain a satisfactory competitive position as regards prices.

The main provisions of the arrangement are:

- Imports into Austria: A quantitative limitation of imports of cheeses not bound under GATT supplements the agreement concerning observance of prices (see document DPC/INV/1/Add.2, page 18) and entrusts surveillance of free-at-frontier prices to the Austrian authorities.
- Imports into the Community: Observance of minimum free-at-frontier prices on entry into the Community, which has until now been the qualifying condition for reduced rate import levies either under a GATT binding (Emmental) or under unilateral Community decisions for certain cheeses originating in and consigned from Austria, is suspended and replaced by a commitment on the part of Austria to limit its exports to the Community to the traditional level.
- Reciprocal undertaking on prices: The Community and Austria have undertaken to ensure that the prices charged by their exporters are not such as to cause difficulties on the importing country's market. A mutual information and co-operation mechanism has been set up for this purpose.

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EEC - Finland Agreement

A temporary joint discipline arrangement between Finland and the European Economic Community on mutual trade in cheeses entered into force on 1 January 1982.

The purpose of the arrangement, which will apply for an initial period of three years (1.1.1982-31.12.1984), is to stabilize trade at the traditional level (taking account of the Community's enlargement to ten member States) and to re-establish and maintain a satisfactory competitive position as regards prices.

The main provisions of the arrangement are:

- Imports into Finland: A progressive increase in the size of import quotas and a reduction in the import levies for certain categories of cheeses.
- Imports into the Community: Observance of minimum free-at-frontier prices on entry into the Community, which has until now been the qualifying condition for reduced rate import levies either under a GATT binding (Emmental) or under unilateral Community decisions for certain cheeses originating in and consigned from Finland, is suspended and replaced by a commitment on the part of Finland to limit its exports to the Community to the traditional level.
- Reciprocal undertaking on prices: The Community and Finland have undertaken to ensure that the prices charged by their exporters are not such as to cause difficulties on the importing country's market. A mutual information and co-operation mechanism has been set up for this purpose.