

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

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AUSTRIA - AGREEMENT WITH THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY ON CHEESES

The following communication, dated 22 September 1982, has been received from the Permanent Mission of Austria.

I have the honour to notify you - under paragraph 3 of the Memorandum of Understanding Regarding Notification, Consultation, Dispute Settlement and Surveillance - of an agreement on cheeses which Austria has concluded with the European Economic Community.

Austria - EEC 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 January 1982 to 31 December 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.