

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

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NOTIFICATION IN PURSUANCE OF PARAGRAPH 3 OF THE UNDERSTANDING
REGARDING NOTIFICATION, CONSULTATION, DISPUTE
SETTLEMENT AND SURVEILLANCE

EEC - Emergency Action on Certain Species of Timber

The following communication, dated 2 February 1983, has been received from the delegation of the European Communities for circulation to contracting parties.

On 24 January 1983 the Council of the European Communities adopted a regulation¹ introducing emergency measures on the imports of certain categories of wood in France falling within heading No. ex 44.05 C of the Common Customs Tariff (Nimexe code 44.05-40). The measures introduced do not apply to imports into the territory of other member States of the European Community.

The need for emergency measures results from the serious storm damage to the French forestry industry on 7 November 1982 when the volume of trees blown down, damaged or uprooted in twenty departments (11,000,000 m³) represented more than half the volume normally felled in a full year in the whole of France. Quite apart from the serious economic consequences, the difficulties of disposal risk hindering the expeditious removal of the trees which have been blown down, thus endangering the preservation of plant life, in particular the forests in the regions affected.

The measures take the form of quantitative restrictions which will apply until 31 December 1983; the European Communities acknowledge the importance of taking into account traditional trade patterns and contracts concluded previously under normal conditions. The import quota for 1983 will therefore be of 1,750,000 m³.

Similar emergency action was taken by the European Economic Community in respect of the Federal Republic of Germany in 1973 (document L/3828); as on that occasion, the Community is prepared to enter into consultation with contracting parties having a substantial interest in exports to France.

¹ Council Regulation (EEC) No. 169/83, Official Journal of the European Communities L 23, of 26 January 1983, page 26

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