

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

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AFRICAN, CARIBBEAN AND PACIFIC GROUP OF STATES - EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

ACP-EEC Convention of Lomé

The following communication has been received from the Chairman of the ACP Committee of Ambassadors and the Head of the Permanent Delegation of the Commission of the European Communities.

We have the honour, on behalf of the ACP Group of States and of the European Economic Community, to communicate to you herewith, for the attention of the contracting parties, the text of the third Convention signed at Lomé on 8 December 1984 between the European Economic Community, its member States and sixty-six African, Caribbean and Pacific States. The convention entered into force on 1 May 1986.

This new Convention follows and builds upon the first and second Lomé Conventions which were both submitted to the GATT. The basic objectives and principles of ACP-EEC Cooperation are well set out in the first section of this Convention. The third Convention reaffirms the Contracting Parties' desire to pursue the establishment of a new model for economic cooperation in general and trade relations in particular between the developed countries and developing countries between which there is a long historical past of special and privileged relations, the validity and perennality of which have been explicitly recognized by the General Agreement.

The trade régime established by the new Convention maintains and reinforces that of the previous Conventions.

In accordance with the provisions of Part IV of the General Agreement with respect to non-reciprocity and having regard to the trade, financial and development needs of the ACP States, the latter are not required, for the period of validity of the third Convention, to grant access to their markets for products originating in the EEC equivalent to that granted by the Community for products of ACP origin.

In presenting the second Lomé Convention to the Contracting Parties the ACP States and the Community stated their view that the Convention was consistent with the obligations of the Contracting Parties and complied fully with the objectives that govern and motivate the GATT. They are convinced that this conclusion remains valid in respect of the third Convention.

A copy of the text of the Convention will be sent to each contracting party as soon as received by the secretariat.