

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON

RESTRICTED

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TARIFFS AND TRADE

Special Distribution

Committee on Import Licensing

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COMMUNICATION FROM FINLAND

Following the discussion in the Committee meeting of 12 September 1988 (LIC/M/22, paragraphs 8 and 9) the delegation of Finland, in a communication dated 23 November 1988, has supplied the following information concerning import licensing on flat steel bars from Romania.

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1. Flat bars imported from Romania are subject to non-automatic import licensing.

Imports of flat bars from Romania under HS-positions 74.14.40.21 and 74.14.40.29 are subject to non-automatic import licensing since 15 May 1988. This licensing requirement is based on a decree given on 12 May 1988. According to the decree, an import licence is required as a pre-condition for importation of flat bars originating in Romania into the customs territory of Finland. Each application for import licence is considered individually.

2. The issuing of import licences from Romania to Finland is not based on fixed quantities.

To prevent market disruption caused by increased exports from Romania to Finland the parties have during the last years agreed on the appropriate volume of yearly steel imports containing i.a. flat bars.

As to licensing procedures, the Import and Export Permits Office applies the national laws and regulations concerning foreign trade giving due allowance to the prevailing circumstances and the present market situation. These regulations are in line with the obligations of the GATT Agreement on Import Licensing Procedures. The development of imports is regulated through licensing with the objective of keeping the volume of imports at traditional levels. In assessing the degree of imports that can be considered traditional, regard is given to quantities imported over a longer-term period, before the rapid growth in imports which occurred in 1987 (cf. paragraph k under Article 3 of the Licensing Code).

The eligibility of persons, firms and institutions to file import licence applications is not limited. All applicants and applications are given equal treatment when assessing the conditions for granting the import licences. There are no restrictions to renew an application refused.