

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON

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TARIFFS AND TRADE

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NORWEGIAN IMPORT RESTRICTIONS ON APPLES AND PEARS

Communication from Norway

The following communication dated 23 February 1990, has been received from the Permanent Mission of Norway.

IMPLEMENTATION OF PANEL REPORT L/6474 ON NORWEGIAN IMPORT RESTRICTIONS ON APPLES AND PEARS

The above-mentioned panel report was adopted on 22 June 1989. The panel's recommendations were as follows:

"The Panel recommends that the CONTRACTING PARTIES request Norway to bring its measures applying to imports of apples and pears into conformity with its obligations under the General Agreement."

When accepting the report, the Permanent Representative of Norway stressed the fact that this was a very difficult case for Norway, and that implementation would therefore have to take time. He also referred to the fact that "changes in the system will have to be presented to the Storting for its scrutiny and adoption". Therefore, the present communication is subject to approval by the Storting.

The internal Norwegian follow-up to the report and its recommendation have now been completed. A new import regime will be introduced in order to bring the measures applying to imports of apples and pears into conformity with Norway's GATT obligations. Under this regime imports of apples and pears will be allowed throughout the year. The new system, which will be reviewed in light of the outcome of the Uruguay Round negotiations, is based on Article XI:2(c) and comprises the following main elements:

I. Restriction on the quantity of domestic product permitted to be marketed or produced

As from the 1990/91 season a restriction will be introduced, on the quantity of apples (7,500 tons) and pears (1,500 tons) to be marketed for consumption. The restriction concerns the Norwegian apple and pear sales production at wholesale level, which competes with imported fruit.

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Measures will also be introduced to restrict the area under cultivation.

II. Import restrictions

Imports will, in the case of apples, be free from 1 December to 30 April. During the period 1 May to 30 November imports will be subject to a quota of 8,000 tons. Additional quotas may be allocated.

In the case of pears, imports will be free from 1 December to 10 August. A quota of 250 tons of pears will be licensed for the period 11 August to 30 November. Additional quotas may be allocated.