

# GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

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Special Distribution

Multilateral Trade Negotiations

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## COMMUNICATION FROM THE DELEGATION OF GREECE

The following communication, dated 16 May 1978, has been received from the delegation of Greece.

I have the honour to advise you that the position of my country concerning the multilateral trade negotiations is the following:

Greece is participating in the multilateral trade negotiations through the intermediary of the offers made by the European Economic Community (EEC), by reason of its Association with and forthcoming accession to the EEC.

More particularly, in the agricultural sector, under the Athens Agreement Greece has already aligned its position with that of the EEC in respect of the products included in Annex III to the Association Agreement. Consequently, for these products it will observe the concessions of the Community. For agricultural products not covered by the Association Agreement, Greece will progressively apply the common external tariff and will grant the EEC concessions as from its accession to the EEC, expected in the short term.

With respect to industrial products, under the provisions of the same Agreement, Greece is aligning its national tariff with the common customs tariff (CCT) of the Community. This alignment implies a reduction of the customs duties applied on imports into Greece of products coming from countries outside the Association. Thus, for products subject to the transitional period of 12 years, the common customs tariff has been in effect since 1 November 1974. As regards products subject to the transitional period of 22 years, two alignments have so far been made, on 1 May 1970 and 1 November 1975. The first of these reduced by 20 per cent the difference between the Greek tariff and the CCT, and the second reduced by 30 per cent the difference between the tariff resulting from the first alignment and the CCT, resulting in a cumulative reduction of 44 per cent in the said difference. However, in respect of products for which the difference after the first alignment was less than 15 per cent, the CCT has been in effect since 1 November 1975. The next alignment will take place on 1 November 1979. Consequently, the reductions that the EEC will make in its tariff in the framework of the Tokyo Round will have repercussions on the Greek tariff as from their entry into force, given that in general the Greek tariff is higher than the common customs tariff of the EEC.

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In the field of non-tariff measures, Greece will have to apply, as from its accession to the EEC, the more liberal trade policy of the Community in accordance with the transitional adjustments now being negotiated.

Upon acceding to the EEC, Greece will of course apply the external trade policy of the Community. It is clear, therefore, that Greece is contributing substantially to the multilateral trade negotiations and accordingly my country expects to enjoy both the reciprocal advantages that will result from the negotiations and from any special advantages granted to countries whose economy or trade has a specific structure similar to that of Greece. On this same basis, it is our intention to present specific requests to certain countries.