

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

MTN/AG/W/22/Add.1/Suppl.1
11 July 1977

Special Distribution

Multilateral Trade Negotiations
Group "Agriculture"

Original: French

REPORT ON CONSULTATIONS HELD UNDER THE PROCEDURES OF MTN/AG/4

EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

At its meeting on 20 December 1976, Group "Agriculture" agreed that delegations having participated in consultations should endeavour, in advance of the next meeting, to send the secretariat summary notes with respect to the consultations in which they had participated. The secretariat would assemble and distribute the summaries in order to facilitate the decision concerning the future work of the Group.

In accordance with this procedure, the European Communities have sent the secretariat the following notes.

Summary Report by the European Economic Community on the Consultations it has held with Australia Concerning Agricultural Products

1. Following the notifications sent to the GATT secretariat under the procedure laid down by Group "Agriculture" on 16 December 1975 (MTN/AG/4), consultations were held on 24 and 25 February and 3 June 1977 at Geneva between the European Economic Community and Australia.
2. Notifications by the Community in regard to Australia

The Community's notifications in regard to Australia are contained in document MTN/AG/W/11/Add.5.

They relate to tariff and non-tariff measures, including sanitary and phyto-sanitary measures, export measures, standards, labelling-packaging rules and quantitative restrictions on certain products of interest to Community exports.

In the course of these consultations, the Community stressed both the major rôle played by Australia in the world market as an exporter of certain categories of agricultural products and its consequent responsibility as regards the expansion of international agricultural trade. In that context, it directed attention to the legal instruments at the disposal of the "Boards" for influencing exports and particularly to the possibility of adjusting prices to the needs of the various exports markets.

Inter alia, it also voiced its concern regarding the import policy pursued by Australia and particularly regarding:

- sanitary and phytosanitary prohibitions;
- high tariffs for certain products;
- the prohibition of imports of sugar;
- rules concerning labelling and packaging.

3. Notifications by Australia in regard to the Community

Australia's notifications in regard to the European Economic Community are contained in document MTN/AG/W/11/Add.17. They relate to tariff or non-tariff measures affecting in particular certain fruits and vegetables (fresh and preserved), fruit juices, wine, honey, meat, rice, oats and certain grain-based processed products.

The consultation provided an opportunity for detailed clarification of the situation as regards the measures actually being applied by the Community and in particular as regards variable levies and export restitutions. The Community explained the operation of certain mechanisms for implementing the measures notified and justified their existence; it also corrected erroneous notifications.

4. The exchanges of views were judged very useful by the two delegations for the further work of Group "Agriculture".

Summary Report by the European Economic Community
on the Consultations it has held with Bulgaria
Concerning Agricultural Products

1. Following the notifications sent to the GATT secretariat under the procedure laid down by Group "Agriculture" on 16 December 1975, consultations were held on 6 April 1977 at Geneva between the European Economic Community and Bulgaria.

2. Notifications by EEC in regard to Bulgaria (MTN/AG/W/11/Add.5/Suppl.2)

In the course of the consultations, the Community had occasion to clarify its position as to the importance it attached to better knowledge and greater transparency as regards:

- subsidies provided by Bulgaria for the export of agricultural products, in particular fruits and vegetables;
- decisions which determine Bulgaria's imports;
- certain information and statistics concerning production, consumption and trade;
- the scope and content of certain agreements concluded by Bulgaria.

3. Notifications by Bulgaria in regard to the Community (MTN/AG/W/11/Add.15)

The consultation enabled the delegation of the Community to signify that many of the measures enumerated in the notification were no longer applicable. It also afforded an opportunity for providing requested details concerning the operation and objectives of certain mechanisms for determining Community prices, in particular in the fruits and vegetables sector.

Details were provided concerning the system of reference prices and the conditions of entry for fruits and vegetables, and tobacco.

4. The exchange of views was judged very useful for the further work of Group "Agriculture".

Summary Report by the European Economic Community
on the Consultations it has Held with Czechoslovakia
Concerning Agricultural Products

1. Following the Community's notifications to the GATT secretariat under the procedure laid down by Group "Agriculture" on 16 December 1975 (MTN/AG/4), consultations were held on 25 November 1976 between the European Economic Community and Czechoslovakia.

2. Notification by EEC in regard to Czechoslovakia (MTN/AG/W/11/Add.5/Suppl.1)

The consultation enabled the Community to make some observations on Czechoslovakia's present system of statistical information.

The EEC has found not only that little information is available to Community exporters but also that the statistics being published by Czechoslovakia concerning production, consumption and foreign trade are of a general character and do not make it possible to gain a clear picture of the country's market.

The Community also alluded to the problem of the trade agreements concluded by Czechoslovakia. It observed that whereas the Community published all preferential agreements, that was not the case for Czechoslovakia, whose trade agreements with certain countries were not published.

The Czechoslovak delegation noted that agreements concluded with countries not members of GATT were not subject to the requirement of communication specified in the General Agreement and that an opinion on the development of trade with a particular country could be arrived at through analysis of the statistics.

The problem of the non-transparency of forms of assistance directly or indirectly influencing Czechoslovak exports was also discussed.

3. The exchange of views was judged very useful for the further work of Group "Agriculture".

Summary Report by the European Economic Community on the
Consultations it has held with Hungary Concerning
Agricultural Products

1. Consultations were held on 15 November 1976 between the European Economic Community and Hungary concerning the notifications in regard to one another which the two delegations sent to the GATT secretariat under the procedure laid down by Group "Agriculture" on 16 December 1975.

2. Notifications by the EEC in regard to Hungary (MTN/AG/W/11/Add.5/Suppl.1)

The Community delegation stressed that certain shortcomings persisted in information on the decisions that determined imports into Hungary and in the degree of detail of production, consumption and trade statistics, although it recognized that there had recently been improvements in this field. With a view to a better understanding of elements affecting the flow of trade, the Community delegation also expressed the wish for greater transparency as regards prices, forms of direct and indirect assistance to exports, and the scope and content of certain trade agreements concluded by Hungary.

3. Notifications by Hungary in regard to the Community (MTN/AG/W/11/Add.4)

The consultation enabled the delegation of the Community to clarify the situation regarding the measures actually being applied by the Community and in particular regarding:

- the system of reference (or minimum) prices,
- financial compensation to producers of fresh fruits and vegetables,
- the conditions of entry for fruits and vegetables,
- the special provisions for wines of an alcoholic content greater than 13°, in respect of imports of which the Federal Republic of Germany applies a fiscal tax, which, however, is also applied to domestic products.

4. The exchange of views was judged very useful for the further work of Group "Agriculture".

Summary Report by the European Economic Community on the
Consultations it has held with Poland Concerning
Agricultural Notifications

1. Consultations were held on 19 November 1976 between the European Economic Community and Poland concerning the notifications in respect of one another which the two delegations sent to the GATT secretariat under the procedure laid down by Group "Agriculture" on 16 December 1975.

2. Notifications by Poland in regard to the EEC (MTN/AG/W/11/Add.9)

The talks helped to clarify certain aspects of the Community's import régime, in particular for the following products: leguminous and other vegetables, bacon and meat.

3. Notifications by the EEC in regard to Poland (MTN/AG/W/11/Add.5/Suppl.1)

The Community delegation laid emphasis on the lack of transparency as regards:

- decisions that determine Poland's import possibilities;
- forms of assistance that directly or indirectly influence Polish exports;
- production, consumption and trade statistics;
- the scope and content of certain trade agreements concluded by Poland.

4. The exchange of views was judged very useful for the further work of Group "Agriculture".

Summary Report by the European Economic Community on the
Consultations it has held with Romania concerning
Agricultural Products

1. Consultations were held on 18 November 1976 between the European Economic Community and Romania concerning the notifications in regard to one another that the two delegations sent to the GATT secretariat under the procedure laid down by Group "Agriculture" on 16 December 1975.

2. Notifications by the EEC in regard to Romania (MTN/AG/W/11/Add.5/Suppl.1)

The consultation enabled the EEC to mention such problems as:

- lack of transparency as regards decisions determining imports into Romania,
- insufficiency of detailed statistics on production, consumption and trade,
- lack of information on the scope and content of certain trade treaties concluded by Romania,
- lack of transparency as regards forms of assistance directly or indirectly influencing trade.

3. Notifications by Romania in regard to the Community (MTN/AG/W/11/Add.12)

The consultation made it possible to clarify the situation as to the measures actually being applied in the Community with respect to certain agricultural products, in particular the operation of certain mechanisms for implementing the measures notified, including the system of reference prices.

The Community took note of Romania's desire to obtain, under the GSP, the same preferential régime as other developing countries.

4. The exchange of views was judged very useful for the further work of Group "Agriculture".