

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

L/4867

5 November 1979

Limited Distribution

Original: English

AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE EFTA COUNTRIES AND SPAIN

Communication from the Delegation of Sweden

The following communication has been received from the delegation of Sweden.

1. Further to the information given in the meeting of the GATT Council on 25 July 1979, I have the honour of transmitting to you on behalf of the Governments of the EFTA countries: Austria, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Portugal, Sweden and Switzerland, on the one hand and of Spain, on the other hand, the following legal instruments containing the provisions for the parties to the Agreement between the EFTA countries and Spain to reduce progressively and to eliminate the obstacles to substantially all trade in products originating in their territories, in accordance with the provisions of Article XXIV of the General Agreement:

- the text of the Agreement between the EFTA countries and Spain, together with the Annexes and Lists forming an integral part thereof, and the additional Agreement extending the validity of this Agreement to the Principality of Liechtenstein;
- the text of the Record of Understandings reached during the negotiations leading to the Agreement between the EFTA countries and Spain;
- the texts of the bilateral agreements concluded between Austria, Finland, Norway, Portugal, Sweden and Switzerland on the one hand, and Spain on the other hand, in accordance with Article 9 of the Agreement concerning trade in agricultural products.

2. The objective of the Agreement is to reduce progressively and to eliminate the obstacles to substantially all trade between the EFTA countries and Spain in products originating in an EFTA country or in Spain.

./.

3. The Agreement covers trade in industrial products, certain fish and fishery products, and a number of processed agricultural products. In addition the separate bilateral agreements to facilitate trade in agriculture negotiated between Austria, Finland, Norway, Portugal, Sweden, Switzerland and Spain cover a number of agricultural products of major importance to the parties concerned.

4. The immediate effect of the Agreement is that the same level of trade liberalization is achieved between the EFTA countries and Spain as applies between Spain and the EEC by virtue of the Agreement concluded in June 1970. In order to make further progress towards the elimination of the remaining obstacles to trade between the parties, the Agreement, in addition to an annual review of possible further steps to liberalize trade, contains provisions for a comprehensive review before the end of 1982. The Agreement will thus contribute to the inclusion of Spain in the European free-trade system comprising the sixteen countries of EFTA and the EC. In this context it should be borne in mind that Spain has applied for membership in the EC.

5. Special provisions have been included in the Agreement (Annex P) taking account of the different level of industrial development between Portugal and Spain.

6. The Agreement will come into force as soon as all eight countries have ratified it. Procedures in order to fulfil the constitutional requirements for ratification are under way or have already been concluded in all signatory countries. If all eight countries have not ratified by 1 January 1980 those that have ratified may decide to put it into effect between them.

One copy of the text of each of the legal instruments referred to in paragraph 1 of the foregoing communication will be sent in due course to each contracting party.