

CUSTOMS UNION BETWEEN TURKEY AND THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY

Questions and Replies

Addendum

This document reproduces oral questions addressed to the Parties and the joint responses provided by them. The questions and replies set out below are organised in accordance with document WT/REG22/5.

I. BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON THE AGREEMENT

1. Membership and Dates of Signature, Ratification and Entry into Force

Have the provisions of Decision 1/95 been substantially changed since the first examination of the Customs Union by the CRTA in October 1996?

No.

II. TRADE PROVISIONS

1. Import Restrictions

Do the Parties have any plans to present a single Schedule of concessions in the WTO?

No.

Could the Parties provide detailed information on tariff lines that had increased following the entry into force of the Common External Tariff (CET), in particular whether the tariff increase had been made for tariff lines for which there was no immediate introduction of the CET but rather a transition period to move to the CET?

The EC tariff did not change following the establishment of the Customs Union. As far as Turkey's import regime is concerned, no tariff increases have been made to date for products covered by Article 15 of Decision 1/95 or by Decision 2/95. To the contrary, tariffs have been aligned to the CET in accordance with the timetable envisaged by the said Article. This alignment will be completed at the beginning of 2001, and as a result the alignment process will then be completed for industrial products.

For non-agricultural products, were there any tariff lines where tariff quotas had been applied by the EC and where Turkey would now implement the CET? In these cases, would the tariff quotas be adjusted to take account of imports coming into Turkey?

Yes. But since any such tariff quotas are applied by each Party unilaterally, no adjustment was necessary to the EC tariff quotas.

5. Safeguards &

6. Anti-Dumping and Countervailing Measures

Could the Parties confirm that in the future they would not automatically extend anti-dumping and countervailing duties and safeguard measures without individual investigations and that they would apply these measures only in compliance with specific WTO agreements?

Decision 1/95 contains no provisions for the automatic extension of trade defence measures. Article 46 of the Agreement stresses the principle of autonomy in trade defence regimes, so measures imposed on products originating in third countries will continue to be collected as previously in each part of the Customs Union, and not be extended to the other part. The Agreement states that this autonomous regime will continue to apply until the Association Council, set up by the Agreement, decides otherwise. In any event, any future regime will be in full conformity with the Parties' WTO obligations.

8. Sector-Specific Provisions

8.1 Agriculture

Have there been any adjustments to EC tariff quotas to take account of Turkish imports? Were there any items where tariffs had previously been applied but which would now be imported under tariff quotas?

As previously stated, there was no change to the tariff quotas applied by the EC for agricultural products.

Have the liberalization commitments been changed or any firm liberalization commitments/time-lines been agreed for sectors that had not yet been fully liberalized? When would full liberalization for agriculture occur?

Some negotiations on agriculture to extend further the scope and depth of liberalization have led to additional liberalization commitments which entered into force on 1 January 1998.

How have the Parties treated their agricultural budgetary and access commitments?

There has been no change to the WTO Schedules of either Party.

It appears from the Articles dealing with the agricultural component of the Agreement that this applied only to products originating in non-preferential third countries. Could the Parties make available a list of those preferential third countries that were exempt from this arrangement? Could the Annexes outlining how the agricultural component is calculated be made available to the Secretariat?

The Agreement provides that an agricultural component may continue to apply to trade in processed agricultural products between the Parties (i.e. to those products listed in Annex 1 of the Agreement). The relevant Annexes of Decision 1/95 have already been submitted to the WTO Secretariat, where they are available for consultation.
