THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY REMOVES BARRIERS TO
IMPORTS OF PRODUCTS OF INTEREST TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

The Commission of the European Economic Community has informed the GATT secretariat of measures taken during the past twelve months by the Community and the member States in furtherance of the expansion of trade of developing countries.

1. The Community

The duties in the common external tariff on tea, maté and tropical timber were fully suspended, with duty-free entry being applied immediately by the member States, on 1 January 1964.

The Association Convention between the EEC, on the one hand, and African States and Madagascar on the other, became effective on 1 June 1964. As from that date, consequently, the common customs tariff duties on an important group of tropical products, in particular pineapple, coffee and cocoa beans were reduced by from 15 to 40 per cent of the duties formerly applied. The national tariff rates of member States were aligned with those reduced rates on the same date.

As from 1 January 1964 and until 31 December 1965, common external tariff duties on a number of products have been totally or partially suspended with the new suspended duties being applied immediately by member States. Included in the list of such products are cashew nuts, ginger and other spices, and certain types of sporting equipment. A further list of products has benefited from partial duty suspensions as from 1 July 1964, and member States have reduced national duties to the new suspended duty levels in the common external tariff in cases where the former were higher than the latter. Products benefiting from this measure include grapefruit juices and gloves.
2. Member States

(a) France. On 1 July 1964, the French Government lowered duties in force to the level of the common external tariff in respect of oranges imported during certain times of the year, and orange juice.

The French Government has also liberalized a number of products including the following:

- as from 2 July 1963: cement, cotton yarn, jute yarn, man-made textile, fibres and yarn, combed wool and woollen yarn, and certain electric generators and motors;

- as from 31 October 1963: citrus fruit, fresh or dry;

- as from 15 November 1963: walnuts, dried peaches, apples and pears, and castor oil;

- as from 7 June 1964: basket work, knotted carpets and rugs, travelling rugs and blankets, ferro-manganese and motor cycles.

(b) The Federal Republic of Germany. On 1 July 1964, the Federal Republic of Germany lowered its national duty on most types of dried vegetables to the level of the common external duty. On the same date, it was decided to reduce national customs duties on certain products in order to accelerate the approximation of these duties to duty levels in the common external tariff. Included in this list are: preserved fruit, fruit juices, rubber tyres, superphosphates, quebracho extract, chemical wood pulp, uncarded wool, a number of vegetable oils, preserved fish, cocoa butter, jute yarn and jute sacks and bags.

The Government of the Federal Republic of Germany has also liberalized the following products: canned apricots (17 July 1963); neat leather (3 June 1964); and jute sacks and bags (1 July 1964).