Communications from Cyprus

Addendum

The following communication, dated 13 November 1990, has been received from the Permanent Mission of Cyprus.

Further to our communication of 23 August 1990, we wish to inform you that the Republic of Cyprus wishes to ask for recognition by the GATT Contracting Parties of its autonomously taken liberalization measures in the form of tariff reductions as a result of the application of the Customs Union Agreement between the Republic of Cyprus and the European Community.

Under the above-mentioned Agreement, the Republic of Cyprus has undertaken the obligation to progressively align its duties for the products covered by the Agreement with the Common Customs Tariff within a transitional period of 10 years as from 1 March 1988 in ten equal steps of 9 per cent annually. As a result of the above, the Republic of Cyprus has already reduced import duties for the said products by 27 per cent to date and will further reduce them by 73 per cent.

Furthermore, due to the above-mentioned contractual obligations, in the event of the Common Customs Tariff being modified, the rate of alignment shall be adjusted to ensure that the difference between the Cyprus Customs Tariff and the Common Customs Tariff (CCT) is eliminated in equal steps between the date of modification of the CCT and the beginning of the eleventh year.

It follows, that any tariff reductions offered to third countries by the European Community, for the said products, under the framework of the GATT Uruguay Round negotiations will also be binding to the Republic of Cyprus. Thus, any such offer from the European Community can be taken to be an offer by the Republic of Cyprus as well and must be recognized as such by the GATT Contracting Parties.