

25 November 1955

Request by the Luxemburg Government for a waiver
in connection with import restrictions on certain
agricultural products

DRAFT DECISION

HAVING RECEIVED the request of the Luxemburg Government for a waiver of the provisions of Article XI of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade to enable it to maintain quantitative restrictions on the import of agricultural products listed in the Annex to this Decision,

HAVING ALSO RECEIVED the statement by the Luxemburg Government that it has undertaken to pursue actively the harmonization of its agricultural policy with that of its partners in the Benelux Customs Union, and that it is determined to adopt such measures as may be necessary to make its agriculture more competitive, so as to relax, as far as practicable, the restrictions in force at the present time,

CONSIDERING that, as a result of climatic and other natural factors, agricultural production in Luxemburg faces adverse conditions which do not exist in other countries and that agriculture, the maintenance of which is considered by the Grand Duchy as imperative for essential economic, social, and political reasons, cannot, in present circumstances, face international competition and can only subsist with the support of the State,

CONSIDERING that the removal at the present juncture of the restrictions now in force would result in a serious injury, not only for the producers themselves but also for the economy of Luxemburg as a whole, without any substantial benefits accruing to the trade of other contracting parties,

CONSIDERING FURTHER that the governments of Belgium and the Netherlands, which are partners of Luxemburg in the Benelux Customs Union, and whose trade is mainly affected by these restrictions have expressly accepted that these restrictions be maintained in so far as they were concerned,

CONSIDERING FINALLY that, in view of the narrowness of the Luxembourg market and the traditional channels of trade in the products in question, the effect of the restrictions on the trade of contracting parties other than Belgium and The Netherlands is comparatively small and that the restrictions are being administered and will continue to be administered in a non-discriminatory manner,

THE CONTRACTING PARTIES

DECIDE, pursuant to paragraph 5 (a) of Article XXV of the General Agreement and in consideration of the statements recorded above,

(1) that, subject to the conditions and the procedure set out hereunder, the provisions of Article XI of the General Agreement shall be waived to the extent necessary to permit the Government of Luxembourg to maintain the restrictions at present imposed on the import into Luxembourg of the products listed in the Annex to this Decision;

(2) that the Luxembourg Government shall communicate to the Executive Secretary, for circulation to the contracting parties, all information relating to the administration of the restrictions imposed on the import of the products listed in the Annex to this Decision, any significant changes introduced in that system as well as the measures taken to enforce the policy outlined in the Preamble to this Decision and, generally, any information that may be relevant to the trade in the products listed in the Annex to this Decision; such communication shall take place at least once a year before 1st July of each year;

(3) that they shall review the matter in 19—, in the light of the progress made in, and the results achieved by, the implementation by Luxembourg of the policy outlined in the Preamble to this Decision.

ANNEX : List of Products