

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED
AG/FOR/W/AUT/1
27 September 1983

Special Distribution

Committee on Trade in Agriculture

INFORMATION ON MEASURES AFFECTING TRADE SUBMITTED BY AUSTRIA

Note by the Secretariat

1. This note has been prepared by the Secretariat with a view to facilitating discussion in the Committee, notably with respect to "Exercise A", as was suggested by the chairman at the meeting in June 1983 (AG/M/2, paragraph 23). It provides a summary of the information on measures affecting trade set out in document AG/FOR/AUT/1, but is subject to the caveat appearing in the first paragraph of that document.

2. The information supplied in AG/FOR/AUT/1 covers, in principle, all products falling within CCCN chapters 1 through 24, i.e., 164 CCCN four-digit headings; no other products or headings are covered.

Measures affecting exports

3. "Subsidies" - Column 2: Three entries, listing export subsidies for 01.02 - live cattle, 10.01 - wheat, and 10.02 - rye. In respect of the latter two Article XVI:3 is invoked and the measures are classified in column 16 under "(a)". Column 3 - non commercial credit: no entry. Column 4 - Other forms of assistance: no entry. Column 5 - Charges, prohibitions and other restrictions: "DL" (for discretionary licensing) is inserted against 33 headings; in many cases only sub-positions are affected, with explanations in footnotes. No specific GATT Article is shown in the format in column 16 for these 'DL' measures and, for the time being, no "classification". Also in column 5 is shown one instance of a voluntary restraint arrangement (VRA), affecting "certain cheeses", - position 04.04 (classification "(e)" in column 16); against 04.04 the table also shows a bilateral quota (BQ). Eight of the positions subject to DL, and two other positions (all in the grains and fodder categories) are subject to export levies, XLV. One position - coffee - is subject to licensing in accordance with the ICA. No specific GATT Articles, provisions or classifying letters are as yet indicated against these different measures.

Column 6 - State-trading enterprises: Four entries, of "ST"; namely for headings 22.08-09, ethyl alcohol and spirits and liqueurs and for positions 24.01, -02 - tobacco, raw and manufactured; classification symbol in column 16: "(b)". Column 7 - "Other measures" affecting exports: no entry.

Measures affecting imports

4. Column 8 - Tariffs and GATT bindings: duties and duty-rate ranges are shown in Schilling, generally per 100 kg, or in per cent ad valorem. Some duties are mixed, i.e. specific and/or ad valorem with set minimum or maximum. Thirteen headings enjoy mfn-free duty rates while in other cases duties may range from 'free', or a positive duty rate to duties of various incidences. (For duty rate incidences reference should be made to the GATT Tariff Study Files). Out of 164 CCCN headings, 115 benefit from GATT bindings, the whole heading is bound in 41 instances and part of the heading in 74 other instances. The GATT reference shown, column 15, is Schedule XXXII and the GATT Article (column 16) Art. II. Under 56 headings GSP is granted in respect of the whole or part of the tariff position. The symbol "OP" - for other preferential import duties - for the whole or part of the position, is shown in 78 instances. One ex-position, under 03.01, (fresh, chilled, frozen fish) is under tariff quota and several positions benefit from temporarily reduced rates. No specific GATT references, Articles or provisions or classifying symbols are shown in columns 15 and 16. Column 9 - levies and other charges: the symbol "MLV" for import levies (for whole or part of the position) is shown against 61 headings. Two headings, 22.08, -09 (see para. above), are shown as being subject to a surcharge. Column 10 - licensing and import restrictions (quotas, seasonal restrictions, minimum price): The symbol "DL" (for discretionary licensing) is shown against 37 CCCN headings - or sub-headings - with the classification symbol (b). One item (ex 04.04), cf. para. above) is under a voluntary restraint arrangement. Under five headings (certain fresh fruits and vegetables) seasonal restrictions (SR) are applicable, and global quotas (GQ) are applied under 7 headings (most processed meats, sugar, concentrated apple and grape juices, wine and vermouth): the classification shown in column 16 is "(b)". Column 11 - sanitary and phytosanitary regulations: The symbols "SN" or "PSN" are shown against 43 headings; the GATT Art. invoked is XX(b) and the classification is "(a)" (for details cf. AG/DOC/4/AUT/1 and 2). Column 12 - Marketing standards, packaging and labelling regulations]: the applicability of such measures is shown against positions ex 04.05, ex 07.01, ex 08.07 (eggs, certain fresh vegetables and peaches, respectively).

Column 13 - State trading enterprises: State trading (ST) is shown against 12 CCCN headings (grains (except rice), flour, bran, alcohols and spritis and tobacco); the classification symbol in column 16 is (b). Column 14 - Other measures affecting imports: no entry.

Reference to GATT-documents

5. Column 15: The documents cited by Austria as being relevant for the submission are GATT Schedule XXXII, documents L/5102/Add.13, L/5104/Add.17, L/5111, L/5415, also L/3212/Add.5 and Rev.1 and also IMC/INV/16, DPC/INV/2/Add.2. The relevance of one or the other document in relation to specific headings may be seen from column 15 of AG/FOR/AUT/1.

6. Attention is also drawn to the second paragraph on page 2 of AG/FOR/AUT/1 and the reference therein to the general policy statement by Austria which indicates inter alia the mechanisms used for regulating agriculture and the legal basis for the different measures and mechanisms.

AG/DOC/- series documents issued for Austria as of mid-september 1983 are; AG/DOC/2/AUT/1 (Licensing, Import Restrictions, State trading)¹ and Corr.1; the latter concerning only position 16.01), AG/DOC/4/AUT/1 + Add.1 (Sanitary and Phytosanitary Regulations), AG/DOC/5/AUT/1 and 2 (Measures and Mechanisms Influencing Exports). These documents are cross-referenced, as appropriate, to other GATT documents.

References to GATT Articles, provisions and classification criteria as in paragraph 7 (a) through (f) of document AG/1.

8. References made by Austria to specific GATT Articles and/or classification criteria are noted in paragraphs 3 and 4 above.

Summary

Since the references to classification criteria contained in the format tables are not yet complete, the preparation of a comprehensive summary statement does not seem indicated at this stage.

¹ Information on these subjects is covered in the AG/DOC/2 - series for countries covered by the Joint Working Group, in the AG/DOC/3 series for other countries. Organization of subject matter within the AG/DOC/ series is explained in AG/DOC/1.