

**INTERNATIONAL DAIRY ARRANGEMENT**

**ARRANGEMENT INTERNATIONAL RELATIF AU SECTEUR LAITIER**

**ACUERDO INTERNACIONAL DE LOS PRODUCTOS LÁCTEOS**

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

ACCORD GÉNÉRAL SUR LES TARIFS DOUANIERS  
ET LE COMMERCE

ACUERDO GENERAL SOBRE ARANCELES ADUANEROS  
Y COMERCIO

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12 April 1979  
Geneva

INTERNATIONAL DAIRY ARRANGEMENT

PREAMBLE

- Recognizing the importance of milk and dairy products to the economy of many countries<sup>1</sup> in terms of production, trade and consumption;
- Recognizing the need, in the mutual interests of producers and consumers, and of exporters and importers, to avoid surpluses and shortages, and to maintain prices at an equitable level;
- Noting the diversity and interdependence of dairy products;
- Noting the situation in the dairy products market, which is characterized by very wide fluctuations and the proliferation of export and import measures;
- Considering that improved co-operation in the dairy products sector contributes to the attainment of the objectives of expansion and liberalization of world trade, and the implementation of the principles and objectives concerning developing countries agreed upon in the Tokyo Declaration of Ministers dated 14 September 1973 concerning the Multilateral Trade Negotiations;
- Determined to respect the principles and objectives of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (hereinafter referred to as "General Agreement" or "GATT")<sup>2</sup> and, in carrying out the aims of this Arrangement, effectively to implement the principles and objectives agreed upon in the said Tokyo Declaration;

The participants to the present Arrangement have, through their representatives, agreed as follows:

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<sup>1</sup>In this Arrangement and in the Protocols annexed thereto, the term "country" is deemed to include the European Economic Community.

<sup>2</sup>This preambular provision applies only among participants that are contracting parties to the GATT.

2. Participating developing countries shall furnish the information available to them. In order that these participants may improve their data collection mechanisms, developed participants, and any developing participants able to do so, shall consider sympathetically any request to them for technical assistance.

3. The information that the participants undertake to provide pursuant to paragraph 1 of this Article, according to the modalities that the Council shall establish, shall include data on past performance, current situation and outlook regarding production, consumption, prices, stocks and trade, including transactions other than normal commercial transactions, in respect of the products referred to in Article II of this Arrangement, and any other information deemed necessary by the Council. Participants shall also provide information on their domestic policies and trade measures, and on their bilateral, plurilateral or multilateral commitments, in the dairy sector and shall make known, as early as possible, any changes in such policies and measures that are likely to affect international trade in dairy products. The provisions of this paragraph shall not require any participant to disclose confidential information which would impede law enforcement or otherwise be contrary to the public interest or would prejudice the legitimate commercial interests of particular enterprises, public or private.

Note: It is understood that under the provisions of this Article, the Council instructs the secretariat to draw up, and keep up to date, an inventory of all measures affecting trade in dairy products, including commitments resulting from bilateral, plurilateral and multilateral negotiations.

Article IV - Functions of the International Dairy  
Products Council and Co-operation between the  
Participants to this Arrangement

1. The Council shall meet in order to:

- (a) make an evaluation of the situation in and outlook for the world market for dairy products, on the basis of a status report prepared by the secretariat with the documentation furnished by participants in accordance with Article III of this Arrangement, information arising from the operation of the Protocols covered by Article VI of this Arrangement, and any other information available to it;
- (b) review the functioning of this Arrangement.

2. If after an evaluation of the world market situation and outlook, referred to in paragraph 1(a) of this Article, the Council finds that a serious market disequilibrium, or threat of such a disequilibrium, which affects or may affect international trade, is developing for dairy products in general or for one or more products, the Council will proceed to identify, taking particular account of the situation of developing countries, possible solutions for consideration by governments.

3. Depending on whether the Council considers that the situation defined in paragraph 2 of this Article is temporary or more durable, the measures referred to in paragraph 2 of this Article could include short-, medium- or long-term measures to contribute to improve the overall situation of the world market.
4. When considering measures that could be taken pursuant to paragraphs 2 and 3 of this Article, due account shall be taken of the special and more favourable treatment, to be provided for developing countries, where this is feasible and appropriate.
5. Any participant may raise before the Council any matter<sup>3</sup> affecting this Arrangement, inter alia, for the same purposes provided for in paragraph 2 of this Article. Each participant shall promptly afford adequate opportunity for consultation regarding such matter<sup>3</sup> affecting this Arrangement.
6. If the matter affects the application of the specific provisions of the Protocols annexed to this Arrangement, any participant which considers that its trade interests are being seriously threatened and which is unable to reach a mutually satisfactory solution with the other participant or participants concerned, may request the Chairman of the Committee for the relevant Protocol established under Article VII:2(a) of this Arrangement, to convene a special meeting of the Committee on an urgent basis so as to determine as rapidly as possible, and within four working days if requested, any measures which may be required to meet the situation. If a satisfactory solution cannot be reached, the Council shall, at the request of the Chairman of the Committee for the relevant Protocol, meet within a period of not more than fifteen days to consider the matter with a view to facilitating a satisfactory solution.

Article V - Food Aid and Transactions other than  
Normal Commercial Transactions

1. The participants agree:

- (a) In co-operation with FAO and other interested organizations, to foster recognition of the value of dairy products in improving nutritional levels and of ways and means through which they may be made available for the benefit of developing countries.

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<sup>3</sup>It is confirmed that the term "matter" in this paragraph includes any matter which is covered by multilateral agreements negotiated within the framework of the Multilateral Trade Negotiations, in particular those bearing on export and import measures. It is further confirmed that the provisions of Article IV:5 and this footnote are without prejudice to the rights and obligations of the parties to such agreements.

PART THREE

Article VII - Administration of the Arrangement

1. International Dairy Products Council

(a) An International Dairy Products Council shall be established within the framework of the GATT. The Council shall comprise representatives of all participants to the Arrangement and shall carry out all the functions which are necessary to implement the provisions of the Arrangement. The Council shall be serviced by the GATT secretariat. The Council shall establish its own rules of procedure.

(b) Regular and special meetings

The Council shall normally meet at least twice each year. However, the Chairman may call a special meeting of the Council either on his own initiative, at the request of the Committees established under paragraph 2(a) of this Article, or at the request of a participant to this Arrangement.

(c) Decisions

The Council shall reach its decisions by consensus. The Council shall be deemed to have decided on a matter submitted for its consideration if no member of the Council formally objects to the acceptance of a proposal.

(d) Co-operation with other organizations

The Council shall make whatever arrangements are appropriate for consultation or co-operation with intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations.

(e) Admission of observers

(i) The Council may invite any non-participating country to be represented at any meeting as an observer.

(ii) The Council may also invite any of the organizations referred to in paragraph 1(d) of this Article to attend any meeting as an observer.

2. Committees

(a) The Council shall establish a Committee to carry out all the functions which are necessary to implement the provisions of the Protocol Regarding Certain Milk Powders, a Committee to carry out all the functions which are necessary to implement the provisions of the Protocol Regarding Milk Fat and a Committee to carry out all the

functions which are necessary to implement the provisions of the Protocol Regarding Certain Cheeses. Each of these Committees shall comprise representatives of all participants to the relevant Protocol. The Committees shall be serviced by the GATT secretariat. They shall report to the Council on the exercise of their functions.

(b) Examination of the market situation

The Council shall make the necessary arrangements, determining the modalities for the information to be furnished under Article III of this Arrangement, so that

- the Committee of the Protocol Regarding Certain Milk Powders may keep under constant review the situation in and the evolution of the international market for the products covered by this Protocol, and the conditions under which the provisions of this Protocol are applied by participants, taking into account the evolution of prices in international trade in each of the other dairy products having implications for the trade in products covered by this Protocol;

- the Committee of the Protocol Regarding Milk Fat may keep under constant review the situation in and the evolution of the international market for the products covered by this Protocol, and the conditions under which the provisions of this Protocol are applied by participants, taking into account the evolution of prices in international trade in each of the other dairy products having implications for the trade in products covered by this Protocol;

- the Committee of the Protocol Regarding Certain Cheeses may keep under constant review the situation in and the evolution of the international market for the products covered by this Protocol, and the conditions under which the provisions of this Protocol are applied by participants, taking into account the evolution of prices in international trade in each of the other dairy products having implications for the trade in products covered by this Protocol.

(c) Regular and special meetings

Each Committee shall normally meet at least once each quarter. However, the Chairman of each Committee may call a special meeting of the Committee on his own initiative or at the request of any participant.

(d) Decisions

Each Committee shall reach its decisions by consensus. A committee shall be deemed to have decided on a matter submitted for its consideration if no member of the Committee formally objects to the acceptance of a proposal.