

**AGREEMENT ON IMPORT LICENSING  
PROCEDURES**

**ACCORD RELATIF AUX PROCÉDURES EN MATIÈRE DE  
LICENCES D'IMPORTATION**

**ACUERDO SOBRE PROCEDIMIENTOS PARA EL TRÁMITE  
DE LICENCIAS DE IMPORTACIÓN**

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE  
ACCORD GÉNÉRAL SUR LES TARIFS DOUANIERS  
ET LE COMMERCE

ACUERDO GENERAL SOBRE ARANCELES  
ADUANEROS Y COMERCIO

---

12 April 1979  
Geneva

## AGREEMENT ON IMPORT LICENSING PROCEDURES

### PREAMBLE

Having regard to the Multilateral Trade Negotiations, the Parties to this Agreement on Import Licensing Procedures (hereinafter referred to as "Parties" and "this Agreement");

Desiring to further the objectives of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (hereinafter referred to as "General Agreement" or "GATT");

Taking into account the particular trade, development and financial needs of developing countries;

Recognizing the usefulness of automatic import licensing for certain purposes and that such licensing should not be used to restrict trade;

Recognizing that import licensing may be employed to administer measures such as those adopted pursuant to the relevant provisions of the GATT;

Recognizing also that the inappropriate use of import licensing procedures may impede the flow of international trade;

Desiring to simplify, and bring transparency to, the administrative procedures and practices used in international trade, and to ensure the fair and equitable application and administration of such procedures and practices;

Desiring to provide for a consultative mechanism and the speedy, effective and equitable resolution of disputes arising under this Agreement;

Hereby agree as follows:

#### Article 1. General provisions

1. For the purpose of this Agreement, import licensing is defined as administrative procedures<sup>1</sup> used for the operation of import licensing regimes requiring the submission of an application or other documentation (other than that required for customs purposes) to the relevant administrative body as a prior condition for importation into the customs territory of the importing country.

---

<sup>1</sup>Those procedures referred to as "licensing" as well as other similar administrative procedures.

allocated among supplying countries, the licence shall clearly stipulate the country or countries;

- (n) In applying paragraph 8 of Article 1 above, compensating adjustments may be made in future licence allocations where imports exceeded a previous licence level.

Article 4. Institutions, consultation and dispute settlement

1. There shall be established under this Agreement a Committee on Import Licensing composed of representatives from each of the Parties (referred to in this Agreement as "the Committee"). The Committee shall elect its own Chairman and shall meet as necessary for the purpose of affording Parties the opportunity of consulting on any matters relating to the operation of this Agreement or the furtherance of its objectives.

2. Consultations and the settlement of disputes with respect to any matter affecting the operation of this Agreement, shall be subject to the procedures of Articles XXII and XXIII of the GATT.

Article 5. Final provisions

1. Acceptance and accession

- (a) This Agreement shall be open for acceptance by signature or otherwise, by governments contracting parties to the GATT and by the European Economic Community.
- (b) This Agreement shall be open for acceptance by signature or otherwise by governments having provisionally acceded to the GATT, on terms related to the effective application of rights and obligations under this Agreement, which take into account rights and obligations in the instruments providing for their provisional accession.
- (c) This Agreement shall be open to accession by any other government on terms, related to the effective application of rights and obligations under this Agreement, to be agreed between that government and the Parties, by the deposit with the Director-General to the CONTRACTING PARTIES to the GATT of an instrument of accession which states the terms so agreed.
- (d) In regard to acceptance, the provisions of Article XXVI:5(a) and (b) of the General Agreement would be applicable.

2. Reservations

Reservations may not be entered in respect of any of the provisions of this Agreement without the consent of the other Parties.