

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

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General Distribution

GERMAN TREATMENT OF IMPORTS OF SARDINES

Report by the Delegations of Norway and Germany

I. In conclusion of the German-Norwegian negotiations concerning the treatment by Germany of imports of sardines, the German delegation on 21 September 1953 has addressed the following letter to the Norwegian delegation:

"With references to the recommendation made by the CONTRACTING PARTIES to the GATT on 31. October 1952 (GATT document G/26) and the joint meeting of the delegations on 7 September 1953 I beg to inform you as follows:

1. The Government of the Federal Republic of Germany will without delay use its influence with the legislative bodies for the reduction of the tariff rates bound by agreement from 25 per cent ad valorem for sprats (*Clupea sprattus*), and from 20 per cent ad valorem for herrings of a length of the living fish not exceeding 16 cm., prepared with oil or with tomatoes or with both, also with an addition of salt, to 15 per cent ad valorem.

2. Should the tariff rate bound by agreement for sardines (*Sardina pilchardus* or *Clupea pilchardus*) which is at present 14 per cent of the value, be changed, the Federal Republic will use its influence with the legislative bodies that the ratio of the custom tariff rate for sardines on the one hand and the custom tariff rate as envisaged under 1.) above will be maintained.

3. Should the import quotas fixed in the Third Amendment to the German-Norwegian Trade Agreement of 20 December 1950 prove, after the coming into force of the reduction of the tariff rates as envisaged under 1.) above, to be insufficient, the Federal Republic is, at any time, prepared to enter into negotiations with the Royal Norwegian Government with the view to increase such quotas.

I should be grateful to have a confirmation of your approval of the above."

II. The Norwegian delegate the same day confirmed the receipt of the above letter, adding as follows:

"I beg to inform you that the Norwegian Government has authorized me to confirm to you that it agrees upon the substance of your above letter. Accordingly, the Norwegian Government is prepared to consider the matter so far settled as it will not submit the question anymore to the CONTRACTING PARTIES to the GATT.

The present agreement, however, does not imply an act of disclaiming the Norwegian principal standpoint which is still aiming at full equality as to customs treatment of the Norwegian products made of *Clupea sprattus* and *Clupea harengus* and foreign products made of *Clupea pilchardus* and *Sardina pilchardus*. In addition, the Norwegian request for liberalisation of the above-mentioned Norwegian products is maintained. I, therefore, beg to draw your attention already now to the fact that the Norwegian Government reserves itself the right to take up the above question in future Norwegian-German negotiations."