

**GENERAL AGREEMENT ON
TARIFFS AND TRADE**

RESTRICTED

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JAPAN - CUSTOMS DUTIES, TAXES AND LABELLING
PRACTICES ON IMPORTED WINES AND ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

Recourse by the European Communities to Article XXII:1

The following communication, dated 22 July 1986 and addressed to the Permanent Representative of Japan has been received from the Permanent Delegation of the European Communities.

I have been instructed by my authorities to notify you of the wish of the European Community to initiate consultations under GATT Article XXII:1 with Japan in respect of the problems and difficulties which EC exports of wines and alcoholic beverages (see list in Annex) are faced with on the Japanese market.

These problems and difficulties relate in particular to the very high customs duties, the structure and resulting incidences on imports of the liquor tax and the existence of labelling practices by domestic producers which tend to mislead consumers on the Japanese market.

It is the wish of the European Community that these consultations could be started as soon as possible, still before the end of this month.

It is also the hope of the European Community that a quick solution of the problems can be secured through this action. I should add of course that the European Community reserves all their other GATT rights in this instance.

A copy of this letter is being addressed to the Director General of GATT for the information of contracting parties. Should any contracting party be interested in this matter, it could according to GATT current procedures be associated to these consultations.

A N N E X

JAPANESE TARIFF HEADINGS

(CUSTOMS COOPERATION COUNCIL NOMENCLATURE)

NOTE : TO OUR KNOWLEDGE, THE PRODUCTS CONCERNED FALL, IN THE
----- JAPANESE TARIFF NOMENCLATURE, UNDER THE FOLLOWING HEADINGS:

22-05	WINES
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22-05-100	CHAMPAGNE AND OTHER SPARKLING WINES
22-05-210	BULK WINES
22-05-299	BOTTLED WINES
22-05-291	SHERRY, PART AND OTHER FORTIFIED GRAPE WINES
22-06	VERMOUTH AND OTHER WINES OF FRESH GRAPES FLAVOURED
-----	WITH AROMATE EXTRACTS.
22-09	SPIRITS., ALCOHOL AND DISTILLED ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES
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22-09-113	SCOTCH (BULK)
22-09-119	'' (BOTTLED)
22-09-121)	BRANDY (BULK)
22-09-122)	
22-09-123)	BRANDY (BOTTLED)
22-09-129)	
22-09-130	GIN
22-09-130	RUM
22-09-149	OTHER DISTILLED ALCOHOLIC (E.G. PLUMS)
22-09-210	LIQUEURS