

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON

RESTRICTED

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TARIFFS AND TRADE

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EEC - RESTRICTIONS AND CHARGES ON IMPORTS OF OVINE MEAT

Request for Consultations under Article XXIII:1 by Chile

The following request for consultations, dated 8 March 1990, from the Delegation of Chile to the GATT to the Permanent Delegation of the Commission of the European Communities in Geneva, is circulated in accordance with paragraph C.3 of the CONTRACTING PARTIES' 1989 Decision on Improvements to the GATT Dispute Settlement Rules and Procedures (L/6489).

I refer to my Note No. 09¹ in which I explained the problem that appeared to be arising - and affecting Chile - in connection with ovine meat. I gave details of the nature of the problem in that Note and therefore now only refer you to its contents.

Since the fears of discrimination against Chile in ovine meat continue to exist, my Government has instructed me to request the European Economic Community, and through your good offices, to hold urgent consultations under Article XXIII:1 of the General Agreement in order to pave the way for possible recourse to the GATT dispute-settlement system.

Chile expressly reserves all its rights as regards both procedure and the substantive aspects of the above-mentioned problem.

I am sending a copy of this note to the Secretary-General of the Council of the European Communities and to the GATT secretariat.

¹Reproduced in Annex

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ANNEX

Letter of 15 February 1990 from the Permanent Mission of Chile to the Permanent Delegation of the Commission of the European Communities.

As you know, Chile recently renewed with the EEC an ovine-meat access authorization covering 1,490 tonnes between 1 January 1990 and 1992 inclusive. At the same time, the EEC signed voluntary-restraint agreements with the main exporters of ovine meat to the Community market (Argentina, New Zealand and Australia).

Furthermore, the EEC eliminated the ten-per-cent customs duty on imports from the above-mentioned three countries.

In conformity with the m.f.n. clause, which Chile invoked in due course vis-à-vis the EEC, the Community authorities drew up a draft regulation likewise exempting from the duty the exports of ovine meat from Chile and other countries (Austria, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Poland, Romania and Yugoslavia).

According to the information in my Government's possession, the EEC Council of Ministers (Agriculture) yesterday discussed this draft regulation, the adoption of which was blocked by opposition from Italy, France, Spain, Portugal and Greece. The matter will therefore now be studied by the Sub-commission on Agriculture and is to be referred once again to the Council of Ministers in a fortnight's time, when a final decision will be taken.

I have received urgent instructions from my Government to contact you, and through you the EEC member countries concerned, in order to state that Chile attaches the utmost importance to these events and that if the refusal to adopt the regulation were to persist we would be obliged to have recourse to the GATT.

I am sure you are aware that Chile is keenly interested in being able to resolve this problem as rapidly and cordially as possible.