

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

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TURKISH IMPORT TAXES AND EXPORT BONUSES

Statement by the Government of Italy

By an Order dated 1 September 1953, the Turkish Government authorized the payment of export bonuses for certain agricultural products and, at the same time, introduced import taxes, the rates of which vary from 25 to 75 per cent ad valorem, on certain goods considered to be less necessary for the economy of the country. The goods benefitting from the bonuses and those subject to the import taxes are enumerated in two schedules (A and B) annexed to the said Order.

The list of tariff groups (schedule A) on which the import taxes are charged includes the following for which duties were negotiated with Italy within the framework of GATT: Tariff Numbers 134, 383, 566, 858 and 859. Among the products benefitting from export bonuses are bitter almonds, lemons, wine, chestnuts and table olives. Subsidised Turkish exports of these products may harm Italian exportation of the same articles to the markets of other countries.

In connection with this question the Italian Government, in November 1953, requested its Commercial Attaché in Ankara to bring to the notice of the competent Turkish authorities the anxiety caused in Italy by these provisions. It was pointed out that the grant of export bonuses should have been officially communicated to the CONTRACTING PARTIES in accordance with Article XVI of the General Agreement, and that the imposition of special import taxes on goods for which duties had been negotiated was in contradiction with the obligations undertaken by Turkey under GATT.

The representations made to the Turkish authorities have failed to have any favourable result, and for this reason the Italian Government requests that the question be included in the agenda of the next session of the CONTRACTING PARTIES.