

# GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED  
LIMITED C  
GATT/GPS/7  
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CONTRACTING PARTIES  
SPECIAL SESSION

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATIONS OF  
BELGIUM, LUXEMBOURG AND THE NETHERLANDS  
CONCERNING THE POSSIBLE EFFECTS  
OF THE SCHUMANN PLAN ON CERTAIN ITEMS IN  
SCHEDULE II

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Paragraph 20 of the Draft Convention relating to the interim provisions for the European Coal/Steel Pool requires that the members of the Pool should secure from the Contracting Parties authorization for the preference included in the Draft Treaty setting up the European Coal/Steel Pool. Under paragraph 15 of the Convention, the Benelux countries agree to take certain steps including the establishment of tariff quotas with a view to avoiding, during the interim period when duties on steel will be harmonized, importation of the latter product in transit through the Benelux countries on account of the lower rates of duties obtaining therein, into the territories of other members of the Pool. They further undertake, at the expiration of this period of harmonisation, to increase, if necessary, their rates of duty on steel, by two points at most - i.e. 2% ad valorem.

If the Benelux countries revalidate their Geneva and Annecy schedules, they will do so on the understanding that the decision which the Contracting Parties will be called upon to take under the authorisation provided for in paragraph 20 of the Convention will enable them to carry out the obligation included in paragraph 15 of the said Convention.