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L/5098

16 January 1981

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GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

Original: French

EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY

ACP-EEC Convention of Lomé

The following communication dated 19 December 1980 has been received from the Permanent Delegation of the Commission of the European Communities.

I have the honour to communicate to you herewith, for the attention of the CONTRACTING PARTIES, the text of the new Convention signed at Lomé (Togo) on 31 October 1979 between the European Economic Community, its member States and fifty-nine African, Caribbean and Pacific States, which was notified to the Council at its meeting of 16 November 1979.

I should like to point out in this connexion that this text is being communicated for reasons of courtesy and efficiency vis-à-vis the CONTRACTING PARTIES before the completion of the ratification or adoption procedures which alone will confer validity and legal existence on the new Convention.

This new Convention, which follows on from the first Convention of Lomé, reaffirms the Community's desire to pursue the establishment of a new model for economic co-operation in general and trade relations in particular between the developed countries and developing countries between which there is a long historical past of special and privileged relations, the validity and perennality of which have been explicitly recognized by the General Agreement.

The trade régime established by the new Convention of Lomé embodies the provisions of the earlier instrument and includes some changes in favour of the ACP States in respect of certain agricultural and food products and the safeguard clause.

Taking into account the principles set forth in Part IV of the General Agreement with regard to non-reciprocity and their present development needs, the ACP States will not be required to undertake, during the period of validity of the present Convention, in respect of imports of products originating in the EEC, obligations corresponding to the commitments entered into by the EEC in respect of imports of products originating in the ACP States. The provisions of the new Lomé Convention, and in particular certain changes made therein, reflect the will of the EEC to contribute to the development effort of the ACP States in keeping with the aspirations of the international Community toward a more just and more balanced economic order.

The Community remains convinced that the new Convention is consistent with the obligations of the CONTRACTING PARTIES and complies fully with the objectives that govern and motivate the GATT. It requests, accordingly, that this new Convention be examined in the light of the overall objectives of the General Agreement.

The EEC is ready to co-operate fully in this examination; it asks all its partners in GATT to approach the examination in the same positive spirit and considers that such an approach can in general contribute toward further progress in international economic relations.

The secretariat has received copies of the text of the Convention in English and French, and one copy will be transmitted to each delegation.