

GATT/AIR/145

23 DECEMBER 1958

SUBJECT: REDUCTION OF CUSTOMS DUTIES ON 1 JANUARY 1959 BY MEMBER STATES OF THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY

THE FOLLOWING COMMUNICATION DATED 19 DECEMBER HAS BEEN RECEIVED FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY:

"THE PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY HAS INSTRUCTED ME TO COMMUNICATE TO YOU FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND THE INFORMATION OF THE CONTRACTING PARTIES THE FOLLOWING DECISION TAKEN BY THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY ON 3 DECEMBER 1958.

"BEGINNING 1 JANUARY 1959, THE SIX MEMBER STATES WILL REDUCE BY 10 PER CENT THEIR CUSTOMS DUTIES WHICH ARE IN EXCESS OF THE COMMON EXTERNAL TARIFF, IN RESPECT OF INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTS (NOT INCLUDING PRODUCTS COMING UNDER THE TREATY CONSTITUTING THE EUROPEAN COAL AND STEEL COMMUNITY OR PRODUCTS IN RESPECT OF WHICH THE REDUCTION AS BETWEEN THE SIX MEMBER STATES WILL NOT BE INTRODUCED UNDER THE ROME TREATY PROVISIONS), PROVIDED, HOWEVER, THAT SUCH REDUCTION WILL NOT BRING SUCH DUTIES TO A LEVEL LOWER THAN THE COMMON TARIFF.

"THIS REDUCTION WILL BE APPLICABLE TO THE MEMBERS OF THE OEEC, THE MEMBERS OF GATT - SUBJECT, IN THE CASE OF THE MEMBER STATES OF THE COMMUNITY WHICH ARE APPLYING ARTICLE XXXV OF THE GENERAL AGREEMENT TO CERTAIN CONTRACTING PARTIES, TO THEIR AVAILING THEMSELVES OF THE POSSIBILITY OF NOT EXTENDING MOST-FAVoured-NATION TREATMENT TO SUCH CONTRACTING PARTIES - AND TO NON-GATT MEMBERS ENJOYING MOST-FAVoured-NATION TREATMENT.

"THE ABOVE-MENTIONED REDUCTION WILL BE PROVISIONAL AND WILL BE VALID FOR AN INDETERMINATE PERIOD.

"AS REGARDS AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS, THE MEMBER STATES WILL REDUCE THEIR CUSTOMS DUTIES BY 10 PER CENT IN THE SAME CONDITIONS AS IN THE CASE OF INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTS, AT LEAST AS FAR AS NON-LIBERALIZED ITEMS ARE CONCERNED.

"THE MEMBER STATES DO NOT MAKE THIS REDUCTION SUBJECT TO RECIPROCAL TREATMENT BEING GRANTED BY THIRD COUNTRIES; THEY WOULD, HOWEVER, WELCOME ANY SIMILAR MOVE ON THE PART OF SUCH COUNTRIES.

"IMPLEMENTING PROVISIONS SHALL BE ENACTED PROMPTLY BY EACH MEMBER STATE ON THE BASIS OF A ROUGH ASSESSMENT OF THE COMMON EXTERNAL TARIFF."

E. WYNDHAM WHITE