

EC – TUNISIA (GOODS)
Summary Fact Sheet
June 2007

Table 1: Background Information

Parties	European Communities, Republic of Tunisia	
Date of signature	17 July 1995	
Date of entry into force	1 March 1998	
Transition period for full implementation	12 years	
Date of full implementation	1 March 2010	
Website addresses or points of contact	EC: http://ec.europa.eu/trade/issues/bilateral/countries/tunisia/index_en.htm Tunisia: http://www.infocommerce.gov.tn/indexFR.html	
List of related GATT/WTO documents	WT/REG69/N/1 WT/REG69/1 WT/REG69/2 WT/REG69/3 WT/REG69/M/1- M/5-Corr.1 WT/REG69/4-Add. 1-3	Notification Agreement Standard Format Terms of Reference Summary Records Questions & Replies

Table 2: Internal Trade Liberalization

Import duties and charges	Chapter 1 (Articles 7-14) – Industrial Goods Chapter 1 (Article 10) – Tariff Rates Quotas Chapter 2 (Articles 15-18) – Agricultural Goods and Fisheries Chapter 3 (Articles 19-30) – Common Provisions
Export duties and charges	The EC and Tunisia do not apply any quantitative restrictions or measures having equivalent effect, or duties or measures having equivalent effect on exports.
Non-tariff measures	Quantitative restrictions and measures having equivalent effect between Tunisia and the EC are eliminated from entry into force of the Agreement
Sector-specific rules	Agricultural and fishery products originating in Tunisia benefit on import into the EC from the provisions set out in Protocols Numbers 1 and 2. Agricultural products originating in the Community benefit on import into Tunisia from the provisions set out in Protocol Number 3. Tunisia may specify a separate agricultural component in the import duties in force on the import of certain processed agricultural products originating in the Community.
Product exclusions	The arrangements to be applied to Annex 6 are to be re examined by the Association Council four years after entry into force of the Agreement.

Table 3: Common External Tariff

Provisions	None
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Table 4: Provisions of the Agreement

Provision	Relevant Article(s)	Additional Information
Rules of Origin	Article 29 and Protocol No 4	The concept of "originating products" is laid down in Protocol No 4 as modified by the UE-Tunisie Association Council Decision No 1/2006 of 28 July 2006.
Standards-related measures	Article 40 and Article 51	The Agreement provides that the parties take appropriate steps to promote the use by Tunisia of Community technical rules and European quality standards for industrial and agri-food products and certification procedures. The parties convened to conclude mutual recognition agreements of certifications where necessary conditions are fulfilled.
SPS measures	None	
Safeguard mechanisms (intra-trade)	Article 14, Article 25, Article 27 and Article 35	Exceptional measures of limited duration which derogate from the tariff elimination schedule may be taken by Tunisia in the form of an increase or reintroduction of customs duties. These measures may only concern infant industries or certain sectors undergoing restructuring or facing serious difficulties, particularly where these difficulties produce major social problems. The measures must not

Provision	Relevant Article(s)	Additional Information
		exceed five years unless a longer duration is authorised by the Association Committee and cease to apply on the expiry of the transitional period of 12 years. The EC or Tunisia may take appropriate measures, where the increase in imports of a product occurs in such quantities and under such conditions as to cause or to threaten to cause serious injury to domestic producers or similar or directly competitive products, or serious disturbances in a sector of the economy or difficulties that can result in a deterioration of the economic situation of a region. In the case of serious balance of payment difficulties, Member States or Tunisia may adopt for a limited period restrictions on current transactions, which may not go beyond what is strictly necessary to remedy the balance of payments situation.
Anti-dumping and countervailing measures	Article 24 and Article 27	If one of the parties finds that dumping is taking place in its trade with the other party, they may take appropriate measures in accordance with Article VI of GATT, its related internal legislation and respecting the information procedures established by the Agreement.
Subsidies and state aid	Article 36 and Article 37	Any state aid which distorts competition by favouring certain undertakings or the production of certain goods is incompatible except for derogations authorised under the ECSC Treaty. Tunisia is exceptionally authorised during the five years after the entry into force of the Agreement to grant state aid for restructuring the steel sector. The Member States and Tunisia shall progressively adjust, without affecting commitments made under GATT, any state monopolies of a commercial character to ensure that, by the end of five years after entry into force of the Agreement, no discrimination exists regarding the conditions under which goods are procured and marketed between nationals of the Member States and Tunisia.
Customs-related procedures	Article 59 and Protocol No 5	A mechanism of cooperation is established under the Agreement to ensure fair trade and compliance with trade rules. It will focus on simplifying customs checks and procedures, the use of a Single Administrative Document and creating a link between Community and Tunisian transit systems. The Parties' administrative authorities shall provide mutual assistance in accordance with Protocol No 5.
IPR	Article 39	The Parties shall provide suitable and effective protection of intellectual, industrial and commercial property rights, in line with the highest international standards. This shall encompass effective means of enforcing such rights. If difficulties arise either Party may request urgent consultations to find mutually satisfactory solutions.
Government procurement	Article 41	The Parties aim for reciprocal and gradual liberalisation of public procurement contracts.
Competition	Article 36, Article 37 and Article 38	The Parties shall ensure that after five years any state monopoly of a commercial character be adjusted so that no discrimination regarding the conditions under which goods are procured and marketed exists between nationals of the Parties. There are also provisions on the rules of competition concerning undertakings
Investment	Article 50	Cooperation aims to create a favourable climate for investment, by the establishment of simplified procedures, co-investment machinery, methods of identifying and providing information on investment opportunities, and the establishment in that event of a legal framework to promote investment, through agreements on investment protection and preventing double taxation.
General exceptions	Article 28	The Agreement does not preclude prohibitions or restrictions on imports, exports or goods in transit justified on grounds of public morality, public order, public security, the protection of health and life of humans, animals or plants, the protection of national treasures of artistic, historic or archaeological value or the protection of intellectual and commercial property or rules relating

Provision	Relevant Article(s)	Additional Information
		to gold and silver.
Accession	None	
Dispute resolution	Article 86	Either party may refer to the Association Council any dispute relating to the application or interpretation of the Agreement. Either party may notify the appointment of an arbitrator to the other party, which must then appoint a second arbitrator within two months. The Association Council shall appoint a third arbitrator. The arbitrators' decisions are taken by majority vote.
Relation with other trade agreements	Article 23	Nothing precludes the maintenance or establishment of customs unions, free trade areas or systems of border traffic between either of the parties and third countries insomuch as they do not have an effect to modify the trade system established by this agreement
Institutional provisions	Article 78 and Article 81	An Association Council, at Ministerial level, examines any significant problems arising in the framework of the Agreement; an Association Committee is responsible for management of the Agreement

Table 5a: Trade and tariff Data (EU imports from Tunisia)

Sector	Imports by value (million ECUs)			No. of HS 6 digit lines		
	1995	1996	1997	No. lines	% of total	
					by sector	Overall
Total	2,935	3,250	3,517	..	..	..
of which liberalized by EOI	..	..	..	..	..	..

.. Not available

Table 5b: Trade and tariff Data (Tunisia's imports from the EU)

Sector	Imports by value (million ECUs)			No. of HS 6 digit lines		
	1995	1996	1997	No. lines	% of total	
					by sector	Overall
Total	3,649	3,793	4,644	..	..	..
of which liberalized by EOI	..	..	..	..	..	..

.. Not available