

**GENERAL AGREEMENT
ON TARIFFS AND TRADE**

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ENLARGEMENT OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

Accession of Austria, Finland and Sweden

The representative of the Commission of the European Communities has requested that the following text be distributed.

Further to the European Union's statement in the Council of Representatives on 20 July 1994, the "Treaty concerning the accession of Austria, Finland, Sweden and Norway to the European Union" is being distributed for the information of contracting parties.¹ Some further adjustment of the instruments concerning the accession of new Member States, to reflect Norway's decision not to accede, will be required. The intention is that a further decision will be adopted on 1 January 1995.

This notification is made at this stage in order to facilitate the comprehension by individual contracting parties of the provisions of the Act of Accession. The Act has not yet entered into force, pending ratification by all Member States of the enlarged Union. The contracting parties will be informed once ratification procedures have been completed.

Nevertheless, the EC intends, within the framework of the procedures laid down in Article XXIV of the General Agreement, and in particular paragraphs 6 and 8 thereof, to withdraw the tariff commitments in Schedule XXXII of Austria, Schedule XXIV of Finland, Schedule XXX of Sweden and in Schedule LXXX of the European Community of 12.

The European Union will be ready, from 1 January 1995, to enter into formal Article XXIV procedures including the tariff negotiations provided for under paragraph 6.

Pending completion of the Article XXIV procedures and the creation of a new schedule valid for the Union of 15, the tariff commitments in the previous Schedule LXXX of the Community of 12, together with the commitments resulting from the Uruguay Round, will be fully respected. The acceding countries will align their duties with the Common Customs Tariff on 1 January 1995 except where otherwise provided for by a separate time-table laid down in the Act of Accession.

¹The texts of the Treaty are being circulated in document L/7614/Add.1. The Annexes, Lists and Protocols have been submitted to the Secretariat for consultation by interested contracting parties (office 3006).