

ORGANISATION FOR EUROPEAN ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION

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LIBERALISATION OF INTRA-EUROPEAN TRADE

The following proposal by the Chairman of the Council was accepted by the Council of the Organisation at its 64th Meeting on 30th June 1949;

The Chairman of the Council,

- On the advice of the Consultative Group of Ministers,
- Considering Article 4 of the Convention for European Economic Co-operation, dated 16th April 1948,
- Considering paragraph 322 of the Interim Report on the European Recovery Programme,
- Considering Principle IV of the Plan of Action for 1949-50 approved by the Council on the 26th March 1949,

PROPOSES:

1. That participating countries shall forthwith take the necessary steps for the progressive elimination of quantitative import restrictions between one another, in order to achieve as complete a liberalisation of intra-European trade as possible by 1951.
2. That, for this purpose, they shall be invited to abolish such restrictions unilaterally as fully as their economic and financial position would permit.^(a)
3. That participating countries shall report to the Organisation for European Economic Co-operation not later than the 1st October 1949 on the measures which they have adopted unilaterally and on those which they intend to adopt before the end of the year and subsequently. The Organisation will examine whether each country is making a contribution to the desired objective appropriate to its economic position. At this examination account will be taken of all domestic arrangements likely to restrict the capacity of private importers to obtain the freed goods.

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Archief Min BZ
Nederl. Delegation bij de OEEC
1948-1954
Overdag 1 (4/48 - 10/49)

4. That, should all or some of the participating countries agree on a list or lists of products which have been or are to be freed, they might agree that these should be consolidated for a definite period.
5. That, in making such agreements, the participating countries shall take full account of the provisions of other international agreements, especially the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade and the Havana Charter, once this has been ratified.
6. That, until quotas are completely abolished, creditor countries should, as far as possible, relax their remaining quantitative restrictions in cases where such relaxation should be of particular importance to debtor countries.
7. If in any case the internal economic or financial policies of a participating country are inhibiting action for the liberalisation of trade as undertaken under paragraph 1 above, then representations can be made to O.E.E.C. and discussions thereon shall take place between the parties concerned.
8. Those proposals are made on the assumption that suitable arrangements will be made in the field of intra-European payments.
9. It is desirable that corresponding action should so far as possible be taken in the field of tourism and other services.

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- (a) These arrangements are without prejudice to the right of participating countries to extend to non-participating countries, if they so wish, the measures of relaxation that they are prepared to take.