

ORGANISATION FOR EUROPEAN
ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION

RESTRICTED

Paris, 4th July, 1949

C(49)88 (Final)

C O U N C I L

COUNCIL DECISION

ON THE LIBERALISATION OF INTRA-EUROPEAN TRADE

(taken by the Council at the 65th meeting on 4th July 1949)

The Council;

On the Proposal of the Chairman of the Council;

Considering Article 4 of the Convention for European Economic Cooperation, 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 26th March 1949;

DECIDES:

1. - That the 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)

(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.

*Archief Min BZ,
Nederl. Deputatie bij de OEEC
1948-1954
Omstap 1 (1/48 - 1/49)*

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3. - That participating countries shall report to the Organisation for European Economic Cooperation 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.

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. - These 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.