

WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

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Working Party on State Trading Enterprises

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STATE TRADING

Notification Pursuant to Article XVII:4(a) of the GATT and Paragraph 1
of the Understanding on the Interpretation of Article XVII

TUNISIA

The following communication, dated 31 October 1996, has been received from the Permanent Mission of Tunisia.

A. Tea, coffee and sugar

I. STATE TRADING ENTERPRISE

Tunisian Trade Board (OCT)

II. REASON FOR MAINTAINING A STATE TRADING ENTERPRISE

Under the Decree Law of 3 April 1962, the OCT is responsible more particularly for supplying the country with food products essentially quoted on the stock exchange.

The products are chiefly tea, coffee and sugar.

III. DESCRIPTION OF THE FUNCTIONING OF THE ENTERPRISE

The OCT deals with imports of the above-mentioned products, irrespective of the method of purchase.

The tendering and contract procedures are in keeping with the rules of competition.

IV. STATISTICAL INFORMATION

Quantity: Tonnes
Value: Dinars

Products	Imports						Production		
	1993		1994		1995		1993	1994	1995
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Quantity	Quantity
Sugar	139,534	40,954,310	189,546	62,547,945	137,210	50,934,537	22,820	23,019	26,539
Coffee	11,032	17,278,744	12,770	18,940,652	7,421	10,386,251	-	-	-
Tea	6,030	5,657,510	8,201	14,124,138	8,198	24,747,368	-	-	-

V. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The OCT also engages in the following activities:

- Promoting the commercial and industrial partnership;
- preparing various studies to improve distribution channels.

B. Medicaments and pharmaceuticalsI. STATE TRADING ENTERPRISE

Tunisian Central Pharmacy (PCT).

II. REASON FOR MAINTAINING A STATE TRADING ENTERPRISE

The PCT, established and organized under the Decree Law of 16 January 1961, as amended by the Law of 26 November 1990 and the Decree of 20 April 1991, is responsible for:

- Regular supply of the Tunisian market with medicaments and pharmaceuticals;
- covering the population's normal consumption of such products;
- better competition and competitive prices by means of group purchasing.

III. DESCRIPTION OF THE FUNCTIONING OF THE ENTERPRISE

1. The PCT deals chiefly with imports of medicaments and pharmaceuticals.
2. Procurement and contracting involve three methods:
 - International calls for tenders;

- negotiated purchase, for officinal pharmaceutical preparations;
- two-year or three-year agreements (framework contracts).

IV. STATISTICAL INFORMATION

Value: Millions of dinars

	Imports			Exports		
	1993	1994	1995	1993	1994	1995
Officinal preparations	89.9	99.2	101.3	-	-	-
Hospital preparations	37.3	41.2	40.7	-	-	-
Total	127.2	140.4	142.0	4.9	10.6	7.5

C. Vaccines, seras and allergens

I. STATE TRADING ENTERPRISE

Pasteur Institute of Tunis (IPT): State corporation for medical research and production and inspection of seras and vaccines.

II. REASON FOR MAINTAINING A STATE TRADING ENTERPRISE

The Pasteur Institute's monopoly is exercised under Law No. 58-35 of 15 March 1958.

The Institute ensures that the country is regularly supplied with vaccines, seras and allergens.

III. DESCRIPTION OF THE FUNCTIONING OF THE ENTERPRISE

The import quantities of the above-mentioned products are not determined since, in keeping with the task of guaranteeing coverage of Tunisia's needs in vaccines, serums, blood preparations, allergens for human use and vaccines and tuberculins for veterinary use, the IPT imports enough to achieve this objective.

Two thirds of the imported products are for vaccination programmes carried out by public bodies (Ministry of Public Health and Ministry of Agriculture). One third goes to the private sector.

IV. STATISTICAL INFORMATION

Value: Dinars

Item	1992		1993		1994	
	Production	Imports	Production	Imports	Production	Imports
Seras and vaccines, for human use	415,105.675	-	507,481.835	-	596,611.993	-
Vaccines for veterinary use	150,213.180	1,417,198.337	186,497.926	2,142,453.041	81,672.575	2,388,158.193
Allergens	-	576,703.957	-	786,981.122	-	629,984.099
Human vaccines and blood preparations	-	1,990,109	-	2,354,643,678	-	2,911,980.239

V. REASON WHY NO FOREIGN TRADE HAS TAKEN PLACE (IF THIS IS THE CASE) IN PRODUCTS AFFECTED

The country is supplied with vaccines in accordance with the rules of competition between foreign products, via bi-annual international consultation by the IPT.

The IPT production is for the home market.

D. CerealsI. STATE TRADING ENTERPRISE

Grain Board

II. REASONS FOR MAINTAINING A STATE TRADING ENTERPRISE

Under the Decree Law of 3 April 1962, the Grain Board ensures that the country is properly supplied with grains.

III. DESCRIPTION OF THE FUNCTIONING OF THE ENTERPRISE

The Board is responsible for importing grain (durum wheat, common wheat and barley).

The import quantities are not determined. In keeping with its task of guaranteeing a regular supply of these foodstuffs, the Grain Board imports enough to achieve this objective.

The contract negotiated are short-term business contracts. The Government does not enter into contractual obligations.

IV. STATISTICAL INFORMATION

Quantity: Thousands of tonnes
Value: Millions of dinars

	Production		Imports	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
Durum wheat				
1993	1,134	294.7	29	4.8
1994	436	113.4	67	16.0
1995	472	129.8	693	140.9
Common wheat				
1993	279	62.8	686	85.6
1994	66	14.9	725	81.9
1995	59	14.2	911	149.2
Barley				
1993	478	71.7	30	2.9
1994	145	21.8	454	37.9
1995	80	16.0	454	37.9
Maize				
1993	0	-	290	36.6
1994	0	-	254	33.0
1995	0	-	298	38.7

E. Edible oils

I. STATE TRADING ENTERPRISE

National Edible Oils Board.

II. REASON FOR MAINTAINING A STATE TRADING ENTERPRISE

Under the Decree Law of 16 October 1970, the National Edible Oils Board (ONH):

- Looks after the country's interest in maintaining exports of olive oil;
- ensures the country's supplies by imports of seed oil for consumption.

III. DESCRIPTION OF THE FUNCTIONING OF THE ENTERPRISE

The import quantities are not determined since, in keeping with its task of guaranteeing regular supply of the Tunisian market, the ONH imports enough to achieve that goal.

Private individuals are authorized to market edible oils and, for this purpose, the contracts negotiated are short-term contracts, freely entered into with the parties concerned.

IV. STATISTICAL INFORMATION

Quantity: Thousands of tonnes

Value: Millions of dinars

	Production		Imports		Exports	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
Seed oil						
1993	0		141	65.6	-	-
1994	0		154	91.6	-	-
1995	0		176	111.0	-	-
Olive oil						
1993	135	185.6	-	-	123	177.3
1994	210	288.8	-	-	193	305.2
1995	70	96.3	-	-	90	216.6

F. AlcoholI. STATE TRADING ENTERPRISE

National Alcohol Agency (RNA)

II. REASON FOR MAINTAINING A STATE TRADING ENTERPRISE

Under the Decree of 20 November 1927, the National Alcohol Agency is a State corporation responsible for operating the alcohol sector in Tunisia.

III. DESCRIPTION OF THE FUNCTIONING OF THE ENTERPRISE

The RNA imports alcohol and exports by-products of wine lees and argol.

The quantity of imports is determined in terms of annual demand on the Tunisian market.

The export price and the prices of imported products are determined by the laws of competition.

IV. STATISTICAL INFORMATION

- Imports

Quantity: Hectolitres
Value: Dinars

Product	1993		1994		1995	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
Neutral spirit	-	-	10,186	611,073	-	-
Non-rectified alcohol	11,330	356,487	-	-	12,113	559,918
Absolute alcohol	1,982	99,257	1,982	135,670	3,898	297,677
Methylene	918	99,918	-	-		8,732
Phlegma	10,392	385,380	12,213	568,413	24,242	1,163,914

- Production

Quantity: Hectolitres

Product	1993		1994		1995	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
Neutral spirit	17,220	-	17,080	-	17,244	-
Non-rectified alcohol	2,470	-	2,447	-	2,692	-

- Exports

Quantity: Tonnes
Value: Dinars

Product	1993		1994		1995	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
Lees	153,374	93,564	77,290	37,943	63,065	67,007
Argol	27,470	27,184	51,017	35,420	31,247	43,539

G. Tobacco and matches

I. STATE TRADING ENTERPRISE

National Tobacco and Matches Agency (RNTA)

II. REASON FOR MAINTAINING A STATE TRADING ENTERPRISE

The National Tobacco and Matches Agency has the monopoly on marketing tobacco under Law No. 64-57 of 28 December 1964.

III. DESCRIPTION OF THE FUNCTIONING OF THE ENTERPRISE

The RNTA administers the tobacco sector in Tunisia. Prices are determined on the basis of annual contracts.

IV. STATISTICAL INFORMATION

Value: Thousands of dinars

Product	1993		1994		1995	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
Production						
Packets of cigarettes	249,296,823	33,178	233,469,355	32,288	220,842,669	30,751
Cigars	157,900		7,698		161,300	
Boxes of matches	135,440,034	4,785	133,956,796	5,513	45,731,642	5,357
Imports						
Packets of cigarettes	118,520,283	34,525	121,747,245	34,812	126,093,882	35,810
Cigars	299,590		324,625		271,025	
Pouches, 40 g. and 50 g.	25,555		20,525		595	
Exports						
Tons of tobacco	442,172	1,508	452	1,285	516,754	1,371
Sachets of snuff	2,136,000		1,848,500		1,992,000	

H. Refining of crude oil

I. STATE TRADING ENTERPRISE

Tunisian Refining Industries Corporation (STIR)

II. REASON FOR MAINTAINING A STATE TRADING ENTERPRISE

The STIR, established under Law No. 60-11 of 26 July 1960, is responsible for refining crude oil to meet domestic demand for petroleum products.

III. DESCRIPTION OF THE FUNCTIONING OF THE ENTERPRISE

The STIR refines Tunisian or foreign crude oil. All production goes to the local market, but it does engage in foreign trade in petroleum products to make its activity more profitable.

The trading procedure is by calls for tenders, in accordance with the rules of competition.

IV. STATISTICAL INFORMATION

Quantity: Tonnes
Value: Dinars

Products	1993		1994		1995	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
Imports						
- Fuel oil	394,269	22,958,664	429,372	31,555,435	293,032	28,262,715
- Gas-oil	85,359	14,432,595	-	-	122,708	18,031,144
- Petrol	44,227	8,342,937	44,899	8,118,152	61,736	11,086,489
Exports						
- Fuel oil	389,004	35,972,081	472,543	43,344,420	440,820	43,973,351
- Gas-oil	-	-	-	-	27,524	3,112,367
- V. Naphtha	140,133	22,115,188	54,787	7,205,510	62,214	9,472,267

I. Crude oil and petroleum products

I. STATE TRADING ENTERPRISE

Tunisian Petroleum Enterprise (ETAP)

II. REASON FOR MAINTAINING A STATE TRADING ENTERPRISE

The ETAP, established under Law No. 72-22 of 10 March 1972, is responsible for supplying the country with petroleum products.

III. DESCRIPTION OF THE FUNCTIONING OF THE ENTERPRISE

The ETAP engages in oil prospecting and drilling in association with foreign partners and in marketing the State's crude oil and products.

The ETAP imports petroleum products to ensure regular supplies.

The tendering and contract procedures are in keeping with the rules of competition.

The contracts negotiated are short-term business contracts. The Government does not enter into contractual obligations.

IV. STATISTICAL INFORMATION

(a) Crude oil

Quantity: Tonnes
Value: Dinars

Products	1993		1994		1995	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
Imports	295,415	39,517,633	656,043	82,040,958	854,565	107,027,623
Exports	2,032,528	253,047,116	2,083,201	251,258,936	2,179,727	262,359,926

(b) Petroleum products

Products	1993		1994		1995	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
Imports:						
LPG	157,894	31,411,036	156,672	26,994,627	182,342	40,050,193
Gas-oil	666,831	115,153,811	699,109	106,052,581	540,180	79,672,827
Jet A 1	227,843	45,461,531	251,139	40,859,253	260,167	42,556,254
Fuel oil	908,517	65,401,533	459,807	39,789,460	268,011	27,231,953
Kerosene	36,342	6,780,553	19,426	3,345,916	37,239	5,957,826
Bitumen	92,642	6,683,894	78,483	7,091,091	74,193	7,070,007
Base stock	30,548	8,328,545	33,354	8,247,029	34,425	9,605,364
Exports:						
Propane	10,748	1,653,723	4,149	459,341	7,449	1,052,267
Gasoline	33,736	4,958,559	32,397	4,512,908	31,197	4,256,808

(c) Natural gas imports

Quantity: Thousands m³
Value: Dinars

1993		1994		1995	
Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
718,366	53,274,179	1,485,746	100,027,318	1,478,760	100,944,485