

**Committee on Regional Trade Agreements**

**FREE TRADE AGREEMENT BETWEEN TURKEY AND BULGARIA**

Questions and Replies

This document reproduces questions addressed to the Parties and the responses submitted. The questions and replies set out below are organized in accordance with document WT/REG72/3.

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**I. BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON THE AGREEMENT**

**2. Type of Agreement**

**Please confirm that no implementation of all items will occur within ten years.**

Although the scope of the Agreement initially covers all industrial products but a number of agricultural, processed agricultural and fishery products, there exists a provision envisaging that the Parties shall examine the possibilities of granting each other further concessions with respect to agricultural, processed agricultural and fishery products. In this respect, the Parties can not confirm that no implementation of all items will occur within ten years.

**II. TRADE PROVISIONS**

**1. Import Restrictions**

**Do the Parties maintain quantitative restrictions between or among them? Are there any textile quotas?**

As declared during the meeting of 30 March 2000, the Parties do not maintain quantitative restrictions between them. There are not any textile quotas applicable between the Parties.

**Please provide additional information on the treatment of so-called "sensitive products"?**

As declared during the meeting of 30 March 2000, the Agreement provides for a transitional period of three years for the sensitive products, which will be subject to gradual elimination of duties. Turkey has made a 40 per cent reduction in the customs duties of her sensitive products on the date of application of the Agreement (1 January 1999). The reduction rate reached 60 per cent by 1 January 2000, shall reach 75 per cent by 1 January 2001 and the remaining duties shall be totally eliminated by 1 January 2002.

Bulgaria made a 55 per cent reduction from the basic customs duties for sensitive products on 1 January 1999, the reduction was 70 per cent as of 1 January 2000. On 1 January 2001 the reduction shall reach 85 per cent and finally, as of 1 January 2002 all remaining duties will be eliminated.

### **3. Rules of Origin**

**Do the Parties employ the European System of Cumulation of Origin? If yes, please describe it and identify the countries which benefit from cumulation treatment. Has Bulgaria begun implementing this system?**

As of 1 January 1999, Turkey became a Party to the Pan-European System of Cumulation of Origin, which applies among the European Communities, Poland, Hungary, the Czech Republic, the Slovak Republic, Romania, Bulgaria, Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, Slovenia, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland. The details of this System can be found in the WTO document WT/REG/GEN/1.

### **5. Safeguards**

**Please describe how bilateral and global safeguard measures are applied. Does the Agreement provide for the exclusion of other party from safeguard measures? On what basis and to whom safeguard measures are applied. Have safeguard measures been implemented under the agreement?**

Bilateral safeguard measures are applied in the same way as global safeguard measures are applied. However, according to the Agreement, the Parties shall endeavour to solve any differences between them through direct consultations before initiating the procedure for safeguard measures. The Agreement does not provide for the exclusion of the other Party from safeguard measures. Safeguard measures are applied in the cases of dumping, re-export and serious shortage and when emergency action is required on import of particular products. Safeguard measures have not been implemented under the Agreement.

### **7. Subsidies and State-aid**

**Please provide additional information on the operation of Subsidies and State-aid provisions? Have they been used?**

The State-aid provisions operate in conformity with the procedures and under the conditions laid down by the GATT 1994 and by the Agreement establishing the WTO and any other relevant instruments negotiated under their auspices. They have not been used so far between the Parties.

### **8. Sector-Specific Provisions**

#### **8.1 Agriculture**

**Please describe in detail how agricultural products are treated under the agreement.**

Initially, the Parties have granted each other preferential market access for a number of agricultural and processed agricultural products in the context of tariff quotas, lists of which have been submitted to the Secretariat. As declared during the meeting of 30 March 2000, there exists a provision in the agreement for the expansion of trade in agricultural products.

**Please provide more detailed information on the treatment of agricultural products and duty treatment of groups of products. Please provide additional data adequate to allow an informed analysis of the coverage of the agreement.**

For Turkey, the answers are contained in the document WT/REG72/4.

### **III. GENERAL PROVISIONS OF THE AGREEMENT**

#### **4. Relation with Other Trade Agreements**

**Please provide further information on the meaning of the statement provided in the Standard format, as it is not clear.**

As explained during the meeting of 30 March 2000, in certain matters such as anti-dumping measures, balance of payment difficulties and state-aid reference is made to the relevant WTO Agreements in the sense that measures concerning such matters shall be in conformity with those Agreements.

**Does this Agreement in anyway prevent or discourage parties to the agreement from making multilateral concessions, including tariff reductions? Are there any implicit agreements between the Parties to refrain from making multilateral concessions?**

The Agreement does not prevent or discourage Parties to it from making multilateral concessions. There aren't any implicit agreements between the Parties to refrain from making multilateral concessions.

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