

**CUSTOMS UNION BETWEEN THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY
AND THE PRINCIPALITY OF ANDORRA**

**AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY
AND THE PRINCIPALITY OF ANDORRA**

The Principality of Andorra,

and

The European Economic Community,

Desirous of introducing, in respect of their trade relations, arrangements to take the place of national arrangements currently in force and respecting the specific situation of the Principality of Andorra,

Considering that, owing to geographical, historical and social and economic factors, Andorra's exceptional situation justifies special arrangements, particularly as regards exemption from import duties, turnover tax and excise duties collected on goods imported by travellers from Andorra into the Community,

Have agreed as follows:

Article 1

Trade between the European Economic Community, on the one hand, and the Principality of Andorra, on the other, shall be governed by the provisions set out below.

TITLE I

CUSTOMS UNION

Article 2

A customs union shall be established between the European Economic Community and Andorra for the products covered by Chapters 25 to 97 of the Harmonized System in accordance with the procedure and conditions set out under this Title.

Article 3

1. The provisions of this Title shall apply to:
 - (a) goods produced in the Community or in the Principality of Andorra, including those obtained wholly or in part from products which come from third countries and are in free circulation in the Community or in the Principality of Andorra;

- (b) goods which come from third countries and are in free circulation in the Community or in the Principality of Andorra.

2. Products coming from third countries shall be considered to be in free circulation in the Community or in the Principality of Andorra if the import formalities have been complied with and any customs duties or charges having equivalent effect which are payable have been levied, and there has been no total or partial drawback of such duties or charges in respect of the said products.

Article 4

The provisions of this Title shall also apply to goods obtained in the Community or in the Principality of Andorra, in the manufacture of which were used products coming from third countries and not in free circulation either in the Community or in the Principality of Andorra. These provisions shall, however, apply to those goods only if the exporting Contracting Party levies the customs duties laid down in the Community for third country products used in their manufacture.

Article 5

The Contracting Parties shall refrain from introducing between themselves any new customs duties on imports or exports or charges having equivalent effect, and from increasing those already applied in their trade with each other on 1 January 1989.

Article 6

1. Customs duties on imports and charges having equivalent effect in force between the Community and the Principality of Andorra shall be abolished in accordance with paragraphs 2 and 3.

2. On 1 January 1991, the Principality of Andorra shall abolish customs duties and charges having equivalent effect on imports from the Community.

- 3. (a) From 1 January 1991 the Community, with the exception of the Kingdom of Spain and the Portuguese Republic, shall abolish customs duties and charges having equivalent effect on imports from the Principality of Andorra.
- (b) From 1 January 1991 the Kingdom of Spain and the Portuguese Republic shall apply the same customs duties in respect of the Principality of Andorra as they apply in respect of the Community as constituted on 31 December 1985.
- (c) In the case of processed agricultural products covered by Chapters 25 to 97 of the Harmonized System and referred to in Regulation (EEC) No.3033/80, sub-paragraphs (a) and (b) shall apply to customs duties constituting the fixed component of the charge on imports of those products into the Community from the Principality of Andorra, while the variable component provided for in the Regulation shall continue to apply.
- (d) By way of derogation from sub-paragraphs (a), (b) and (c), imports covered by the provisions relating to tax relief for travellers referred to in Article 13 shall be exempt from customs duties from 1 January 1991.

Article 7

1. For products covered by the customs union, the Principality of Andorra shall adopt, with effect from 1 January 1991:

- the provisions on import formalities applied by the Community to third countries,

- the laws, regulations and administrative provisions applicable to customs matters in the Community and necessary for the proper functioning of the customs union.

The provisions referred to in the first and second indents shall be those currently applicable in the Community.

2. The provisions referred to in the second indent of paragraph 1 shall be determined by the Joint Committee provided for in Article 17.

Article 8

1. (a) Over a period of five years, and beyond that period if no agreement can be reached in accordance with (b), the Principality of Andorra shall authorize the Community, acting on behalf of and for the Principality of Andorra, to enter goods sent from third countries to the Principality of Andorra for free circulation. Entry into free circulation will be effected by the Community customs offices listed in Annex I.

(b) At the end of this period, and under Article 20, the Principality of Andorra may exercise right of entry into free circulation for its goods, following agreement by the Contracting Parties.
2. Where import duties are payable on goods pursuant to paragraph 1, these duties shall be levied on behalf of the Principality of Andorra. The Principality of Andorra shall undertake not to refund these sums directly or indirectly to the parties concerned.
3. The Joint Committee provided for in Article 17 shall determine:
 - (a) possible changes of the list of the Community customs offices competent to clear the goods referred to in paragraph 1 and the procedure for forwarding the said goods to the Principality of Andorra referred to in paragraph 1;
 - (b) the arrangements for assigning to the Andorran Exchequer the amounts collected in accordance with paragraph 2, and the percentage to be deducted by the Community to cover administrative costs in accordance with the relevant regulations in force within the Community;
 - (c) any other arrangements necessary for the proper implementation of this Article.

Article 9

Quantitative restrictions on imports and exports and all measures having equivalent effect between the Community and the Principality of Andorra shall be prohibited from 1 January 1991.

Article 10

1. Should either Contracting Party consider that disparities arising from the other Party's application, in respect of imports from third countries, of customs duties, quantitative restrictions or any measures having equivalent effect, or of any other measure of commercial policy, threaten to deflect trade or to cause economic difficulties in its territory, it may bring the matter before the Joint Committee, which shall, if necessary, recommend appropriate methods for avoiding any harm liable to result therefrom.
2. Where deflections occur or economic difficulties arise and the Party concerned considers that they call for immediate action, that Party may itself take the necessary surveillance or protection

measures, notifying the Joint Committee without delay; the Joint Committee may recommend that the said measures be amended or abolished.

3. In the choice of such measures, preference shall be given to those which least disturb the operation of the customs union and, in particular, the normal development of trade.

TITLE II

ARRANGEMENTS FOR PRODUCTS NOT COVERED BY THE CUSTOMS UNION

Article 11

1. Products covered by Chapters 1 to 24 of the Harmonized System which originate in the Principality of Andorra shall be exempt from import duties when imported into the Community.
2. Rules of origin and methods of administrative cooperation are set out in the Appendix.

Article 12

1. The arrangements applied to goods from third countries imported into the Principality of Andorra shall not be more favourable than those applied to imports of Community goods.
2. Products covered by headings No. 24.02 and 24.03 of the Harmonized System which are manufactured in the Community from raw tobacco and which meet the conditions of Article 3(1) shall be eligible, when imported into the Principality of Andorra, for a preferential rate corresponding to 60 per cent of the rate applied in the Principality of Andorra for the same products *vis-à-vis* third countries.

TITLE III

COMMON PROVISIONS

Article 13

1. Exemptions from import duties, turnover tax and excise duties levied on imports by travellers between the Contracting Parties and applicable to goods contained in the personal luggage of travellers coming from one of the Contracting Parties shall be those currently applicable in the Community in respect of third countries, provided imports of those goods are strictly non-commercial.
2. With regard to the products covered by Title II of this Agreement and listed below, the exemptions referred to in paragraph 1 shall be granted within the following quantitative limits for each traveller entering the Community from the Principality of Andorra:

milk powder	2.5 kilograms
condensed milk	3 kilograms
fresh milk	6 kilograms
butter	1 kilograms
cheese	4 kilograms
sugar and confectionery	5 kilograms
meat	5 kilograms

3. By way of derogation from the provisions of paragraph 1 and provided that the goods have been acquired under the domestic market conditions of one of the Contracting Parties and meet the above conditions:

- the total value of the exemptions applicable to goods covered by Title I shall be set per person at three times the value of the exemption granted by the Community to travellers from third countries,
- the following quantitative limits shall apply to the goods listed below:

(a)	Tobacco products	
	cigarette	300 items
	or	
	cigarillos	150 items
	(cigars weighing no more than 3g each)	
	or	
	cigars	75 items
	or	
	smoking tobacco	400 grams
(b)	Alcohol and alcoholic beverages	
	distilled beverages and spirituous beverages having an alcoholic strength by volume of more than 22 per cent vol; undenatured ethyl alcohol of 80 per cent vol. or more,	1.5 litres total
	or	
	spirituous distilled beverages, aperitifs based on wine or alcohol, taffia, sake or similar beverages with an alcoholic strength by volume not exceeding 22 per cent vol., sparkling wine, dessert wine	3 litres total
	and	
	still wine	5 litres total
(c)	Perfume	75 gram
	and	
	toilet water	3/8 litres
(d)	Coffee	1,000 grams
	or	
	extracts and essences of coffee	400 grams
(e)	Tea	200 grams
	or	
	extracts and essences of tea	80 gram

4. Within the quantitative limits laid down in the second indent of paragraph 3, the value of the goods listed therein shall not be taken into consideration for determining the exemptions referred to in paragraph 1.

Article 14

The Contracting Parties shall refrain from any domestic tax measure or practice leading directly or indirectly to discrimination between the products of one Contracting Party and similar products from the other Contracting Party.

Products sent to the territory of one of the Contracting Parties shall not be eligible for a refund of domestic charges which is higher than the charges which have been levied directly or indirectly.

Article 15

1. In addition to the cooperation provided for in Articles 11(2) and 17(8), the administrative authorities of the Contracting Parties responsible for implementing the provisions of this Agreement shall assist each other in other cases so as to ensure compliance with the provisions.

2. Arrangements for the application of paragraph 1 shall be determined by the Joint Committee referred to in Article 17.

Article 16

The Agreement shall not preclude prohibitions or restrictions on imports, exports or goods in transit justified on grounds of public morality, public policy or public security, the protection of health and life of humans, animals or plants, the protection of national treasures possessing artistic, historic or archaeological value, the protection of industrial or commercial property or controls relating to gold and silver. Such prohibitions or restrictions shall not, however, constitute a means of arbitrary discrimination or a disguised restriction on trade between the Contracting Parties.

Article 17

1. A Joint Committee shall be set up with responsibility for administering this Agreement and ensuring that it is properly implemented. To that end, it shall formulate recommendations. It shall take decisions in the cases provided for in the Agreement. The decisions shall be executed by the Contracting Parties in accordance with their own regulations.

2. With a view to the proper performance of this Agreement, the Contracting Parties shall carry out exchanges of information and, at the request of either Party, shall consult together in the Joint Committee.

3. The Joint Committee shall draw up its own rules of procedure.

4. The Joint Committee shall be composed, on the one hand, of representatives of the Community and, on the other, of representatives of the Principality of Andorra.

5. The Joint Committee shall take decisions by common accord.

6. The Joint Committee shall be chaired by each of the Contracting Parties in turn in accordance with the arrangements to be laid down in its rules of procedure.

7. The Joint Committee shall meet at the request of either of the Contracting Parties, to be lodged at least one month before the date of the intended meeting. Where the Joint Committee is convened under Article 10, it shall meet within eight working days from the date on which the request is lodged.

8. In accordance with the procedure laid down in paragraph 1, the Joint Committee shall determine methods of administrative cooperation for the purposes of applying Articles 3 and 4, taking as a basis the methods adopted by the Community in respect of trade between the Member States; it may also amend provisions in the Appendix, referred to in Article 11.

Article 18

1. Any disputes arising between the Contracting Parties over the interpretation of the Agreement shall be put before the Joint Committee.

2. If the Joint Committee does not succeed in settling the dispute at its next meeting, each Party may notify the other of the designation of an arbitrator; the other Party shall then be required to designate a second arbitrator within two months.

3. The Joint Committee shall designate a third arbitrator.

4. The arbitrator's decisions shall be taken by a majority vote.

5. Each Party involved in the dispute shall be required to take the measures needed to ensure the application of the arbitrator's decision.

Article 19

In trade covered by this Agreement:

-the arrangements applied by the Principality of Andorra *vis-à-vis* the Community may not give rise to any discrimination between the Member States, their nationals or their companies.

-the arrangements applied by the Community *vis-à-vis* the Principality of Andorra may not give rise to any discrimination between Andorran nationals or companies.

TITLE IV

GENERAL AND FINAL PROVISIONS

Article 20

This Agreement is concluded for an unlimited duration. Within five years of its entry into force, the two Parties shall begin consultations to examine the results of its application and, if necessary, to open negotiations on its amendment in the light of that examination.

Article 21

Either Contracting Party may denounce this Agreement by notifying the other Contracting Party in writing. In that case, the Agreement shall cease to have effect six months after the date of such notification.

Article 22

This Agreement shall apply, on the one hand, to the territories in which the Treaty Establishing the European Economic Community is applied and under the conditions laid down in that Treaty and, on the other, to the territory of the Principality of Andorra.

Article 23

Annexes I and II and the Appendix to this Agreement shall form an integral part thereof.

Article 24

1. This Agreement shall enter into force on 1 July 1990, on condition that the Contracting Parties have notified each other before that date of the completion of the procedures necessary to that effect.
2. After the date provided for in paragraph 1, this Agreement shall enter into force on the first day of the second month following notification.
3. If paragraph 2 applies, the date 1 January 1991 contained in various provisions of this Agreement shall be replaced by the date 1 July 1991.

Article 25

The provisions of this Agreement shall replace those applied by the Community, and in particular by France and Spain, prior to the Agreement's entry into force, under the 1967 Exchange of Letters with the Principality of Andorra.

Article 26

This Agreement is drawn up in two originals in the Danish, Dutch, English, French, German, Greek, Italian, Portuguese, Spanish and Catalan languages, each text being equally authentic.
