

COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

COM(82) 272 final

Brussels, 17 May 1982

RECOMMENDATION FOR A COUNCIL DECISION

authorizing the Commission to take part in the negotiations for the accession of Thailand to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade

(submitted to the Council by the Commission)

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EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

THAILAND'S ACCESSION TO THE GATT

1. On 25 January 1982, Thailand submitted an application for full accession to the General Agreement pursuant to Article XXXIII thereof. As Thailand's aim was to accede rapidly to the GATT, at the GATT Council meeting in February a working party was set up to examine Thailand's general commercial policy (it met for the first time on 19 and 20 April), and it was arranged that the working party's report would be approved at the GATT Council meeting to be held in July or September. Once Thailand is a member of the GATT it will acquire GATT negotiating rights for Community tariff concessions, either as a principal supplier country or as a party having a substantial interest.

2. In view of the importance of manioc in Thailand's total exports to the EEC⁽¹⁾, particular emphasis will be laid on this product in the bilateral accession negotiations. This question is in fact being settled independently of the GATT by a bilateral agreement which the Commission negotiated in accordance with the directives adopted by the Council on 16 December 1980. In order to ensure consistency with these directives, it is important that the accession negotiations to be held in Geneva should not clash with the Council's objectives. In particular, the Commission should see to it that, through the interplay of various GATT provisions, Thailand does not in fact acquire more extensive negotiating rights than those resulting from the abovementioned directives.

(1) 1980: Total EEC imports from Thailand : 1.233 million ECU
Imports of manioc : 500 million ECU (= 40%)

3. In view of the above, and given the rather limited period of time for Thailand's accession to the GATT, the Commission proposes that the Council authorize it to enter into negotiations with Thailand concerning its accession to the General Agreement.

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THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community, and in particular Article 113 thereof,

Having regard to the Recommendation from the Commission,

Whereas Thailand has submitted an application for accession to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade,

Whereas this request should be given a favourable response,

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS :

Sole Article

The Commission is hereby authorized to take part in the negotiations for Thailand's accession to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.

The Commission shall conduct the negotiations in consultation with the Special Committee provided for in Article 113 of the Treaty, which will assist it in this task.

Done at Brussels,

For the Council
The President

