

# European Communities

Delegation of the Commission  
of the European Communities  
to the United Nations.

1 Dag Hammarskjöld Plaza  
245 East 47th Street  
New York, NY 10017  
Telephone: (212) 371-3804

Information Service

## Background Information



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### THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES AND CYPRUS

#### A Chronology of Relations between the EC and Cyprus:

- February 19, 1972      Association agreement between the European Community and Cyprus signed, providing for the progressive elimination of commercial trade barriers, in two stages, leading to a customs union. By the terms of the first stage, to be completed by June 30, 1977, the EC was to reduce its tariffs on industrial products from Cyprus by 70%. During the same period EC exports to Cyprus (except for certain sensitive products) were to be reduced by 35%.
- Agricultural aspect      Cyprus' carobs were to receive free entry into the EC while EC tariffs on citrus fruit were to be cut by 40%. A special regime was established for early apples and 'Cyprus sherry' for the UK and Irish markets.
- In an annex, the EC declared it was willing to reexamine the agricultural content of the agreement in the light of the results of negotiations with countries in the Mediterranean basin within the framework of the global approach.
- June 1, 1973      Agreement comes into force.
- October 10, 1973      Commission of EC proposes to Council negotiations with Cyprus to cover new agricultural provisions and economic and financial co-operation.

- November 26, 1973 First meeting of EEC/Cyprus Association Council.
- July 17, 1974 Following the outbreak of hostilities in Cyprus, the Commission recalled that the association was founded on "the principle that the advantages of the association must benefit the whole population of the island. Any development tending to deny these principles could only have consequences on the association itself and on the perspectives for its development."
- September 12, 1974 The Council of Ministers of the EC approves an emergency food aid grant for the displaced populations in Cyprus.
- June 24, 1975 Second meeting of Association Council in Luxembourg.
- July 23, 1975 Mr. Denktash was received, at his request, as representative of the Turk Cypriot population, by President Ortoli and Sir Christopher Soames, who recall the Commission position as expressed on July 17, 1974.
- October 7, 1975 Commission proposes an agreement on the regime for 'Cyprus sherry' (reduction of the customs tariff by 60% for an annual volume of 250,000 hectolitres); the transitory regime extended until June 30, 1976.
- February 4, 1976 The Commission updates its proposal of October 10, 1973 for negotiations to extend the agreement. This proposal took account of the state of advancement of work in the framework of the 'global Mediterranean approach'.
- May 4, 1976 Third meeting of the Association Council in Brussels. The EC recalls its goal is to contribute to the re-establishment of conditions allowing all the citizens of Cyprus to enjoy a new era of peace and stability.

July 1, 1976

Extension for a further year of the transitory regime for 'Cyprus sherry'.

February 3, 1977

Visit to the Commission by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Cyprus, Mr. Christophides and of the Minister of Trade and Industry, Mr. Pierides. They were received by the President and Mr. Haferkamp.

TRADE EC/CYPRUS		in millions of units of account*					
	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	
EC imports from Cyprus	87	88	84	89	80	68	
EC exports to Cyprus	126	150	174	198	209	143	
Balance of trade	+39	+62	+90	+109	+129	+75	

\* 1 unit of account = approximately 1.1 US\$