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1 June 1977

AGREEMENT ON THE INTERNATIONAL CARRIAGE OF PERISHABLE FOODSTUFFS  
AND ON THE SPECIAL EQUIPMENT TO BE USED FOR SUCH CARRIAGE (ATP)  
DONE AT GENEVA ON 1 SEPTEMBER 1970

AMENDMENT PROPOSED BY DENMARK TO ANNEX 3 OF THE AGREEMENT

Sir,

I have the honour, upon instructions from the Secretary-General, to inform you that, in a communication received on 17 May 1977, the Government of Denmark, in accordance with the provisions of article 18 of the Agreement on the International Carriage of Perishable Foodstuffs and on the Special Equipment to be used for such Carriage (ATP), done at Geneva on 1 September 1970, has proposed an amendment to the effect that the provision set out in Annex 3 to the Agreement which reads:

"Fish must always be carried in ice ... +2° C"


be deleted and substituted by the following provision:

"Fish must always be packed in melting ice".

..... You will find enclosed, as an annex, a copy of the memorandum from the Government of Denmark explaining the reasons for the proposed amendment.

If the proposed amendment is accepted, in accordance with the provisions of article 18(5) of the Agreement, it will enter into force six months after the date of its acceptance.

Accept, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

  
Erik Suy  
The Legal Counsel

The Minister for Foreign Affairs of ...

MEMORANDUM  
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AGREEMENT ON THE INTERNATIONAL CARRIAGE OF PERISHABLE FOODSTUFFS  
AND ON THE SPECIAL EQUIPMENT TO BE USED FOR SUCH CARRIAGE (ATP)

Remarks to the amendment to the maximum temperatures prescribed  
in the ATP, annex 3, proposed by the Government of Denmark

1. Denmark proposes that the provision in annex 3 of the ATP to the effect that fresh fish shall be kept at a maximum temperature of 2°C during carriage should be deleted and be substituted by the following provision:

"Fish must always be packed in melting ice".

2. As regards fresh fish it is emphasized that it is of the utmost importance for keeping the quality of fresh fish that the fish be packed in melting ice to secure that the fish is kept wet and its temperature adjusted at about 0°C.

3. According to annex 3 of the ATP fresh fish shall be kept at a maximum temperature of 2°C during carriage. It is furthermore stated that the fish must always be carried in ice. It is, however, not pointed out that the ice must be melting. The present wording of this provision therefore involves the risk that the carrier reduces the air temperature by means of refrigeration in order to ensure that the maximum temperature prescribed is observed in all parts of the fish. By such procedure the ice will be prevented from melting, and partial dehydration and partial freezing of the fresh fish may occur resulting in an unnecessary deterioration of the quality. It is essential to realize that carrying fish in ice is of no use unless a continuous melting of the ice is provided for. It is therefore important that the temperature of the air never decreases below 0°C, but rather is kept a few degrees above 0°C, and a provision which tempts the carriers to keep an air temperature below 0°C ought to be avoided.

4. As mentioned in paragraph 6 of document TRANS/GE.11/R.6/Add.2 the above question was discussed by "The Working Group on Sensory Assessment", established by the Western European fishery laboratories, at a meeting on 22 April 1975 (in Ijmuiden, the Netherlands). Fish experts from fish research institutes and fish inspection services of 7 countries participated in this meeting.

5. In the report of the meeting the Danish statement of the problem in question is referred to, and the report continues:

"The meeting generally accepted the arguments put forward in the Danish submission but questioned whether a maximum temperature need be specified at all. Melting ice acts as its own thermostat and in principle annex 3 of the Agreement need only require that fish be carried in melting ice and any reference to temperature can be deleted."