

No. 2673

AUSTRALIA
and
BELGIUM

Exchange of notes (with annex) constituting an agreement modifying the Provisional Commercial Agreement between Australia and the Belgo-Luxembourg Economic Union signed at Canberra on 3 October 1936. Canberra, 19 February 1954, and Sydney, 26 March 1954

Official text: English.

Registered by Australia on 15 September 1954.

AUSTRALIE
et
BELGIQUE

Échange de notes (avec annexe) constituant un accord modifiant l'Accord commercial provisoire entre l'Australie et l'Union économique belgo-luxembourgeoise signé à Canberra le 3 octobre 1936. Canberra, 19 février 1954, et Sydney, 26 mars 1954

Texte officiel anglais.

Enregistré par l'Australie le 15 septembre 1954.

No. 2673. EXCHANGE OF NOTES CONSTITUTING AN AGREEMENT¹ BETWEEN AUSTRALIA AND BELGIUM MODIFYING THE PROVISIONAL COMMERCIAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN AUSTRALIA AND THE BELGO-LUXEMBOURG ECONOMIC UNION SIGNED AT CANBERRA ON 3 OCTOBER 1936². CANBERRA, 19 FEBRUARY 1954, AND SYDNEY, 26 MARCH 1954

I

The Department of External Affairs of Australia to the Royal Belgian Legation in Australia

The Department of External Affairs presents its compliments to the Belgian Legation and has the honour to refer to the Trade Agreement of 1936² between Belgium and Australia.

One of the provisions of this Agreement is that true vegetable parchment in sizes not less than 8" × 38" (or its equivalent), being the produce or manufacture of the Customs Territory of the Belgo-Luxembourg Economic Union shall not, on importation into Australia, be subject to duties of Customs or primage. Since 1936, true vegetable parchment in the sizes indicated has accordingly enjoyed entry into Australia free of Customs duty and primage duty under Item 334 (H) of the Australian Customs Tariff.

When the Australian Government assumed this obligation in 1936, vegetable parchment was not produced in Australia. Since the war, however, production on a commercial scale has been established. Recently the industry applied to the Government for Tariff protection and the Australian Tariff Board after a public enquiry recommended the imposition of a duty of 10 % ad valorem on imports of vegetable parchment.

The Australian Government desires to adopt this recommendation as a matter of urgency in pursuance of its policy of promoting the development of efficient industries which have been found by the Tariff Board to require assistance. Accordingly, the concurrence of the Belgian Government is sought to the modification of the Australia-Belgium Trade Agreement of 1936 to the extent necessary to enable the Australian Government to apply the duty of 10 % ad valorem recommended by the Tariff Board. This rate of duty would be applicable to imports from all countries and the goods would remain exempt from primage duty.

¹ Came into force on 26 March 1954, by the exchange of the said notes.

² League of Nations, *Treaty Series*, Vol. 177, p. 271.

A statement is attached showing the imports of true vegetable parchment in the last three years.

Canberra, A.C.T.

19th February, 1954

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

IMPORTS FOR HOME CONSUMPTION OF TRUE VEGETABLE PARCHMENT CLASSIFIED UNDER
ITEM 334(H) OF THE AUSTRALIAN CUSTOMS TARIFF IN THE YEARS
1950/51, 1951/52 AND 1952/53

Country of Origin	1950/51		1951/52		1952/53	
	Cwt.	£A.f.o.b.	Cwt.	£A.f.o.b.	Cwt.	£A.f.o.b.
United Kingdom	30,801	231,341	24,799	354,824	5,931	70,633
Belgium	1,910	24,179	5,600	103,611	5	194
Finland	—	—	191	3,578	—	—
France	—	—	685	13,646	—	—
Germany	1,772	14,293	14,122	176,473	1,481	16,207
Italy	201	2,673	204	2,792	—	—
TOTAL . .	34,684	272,486	45,601	654,924	7,417	87,034

II

The Royal Belgian Legation in Australia to the Department of External Affairs of Australia

The Royal Belgian Legation in Australia presents its compliments to the Department of External Affairs in Canberra, and has the honour to acknowledge receipt of the Department's Note of 19th February 1954 concerning the Trade Agreement of 1936 between Belgium and Australia.

The proposed modification of the Trade Agreement as set out in the Department's Note has been referred to the Belgian Government and the Legation has now been instructed to convey to the Department the concurrence of the Belgian Government to the modification of the Australia-Belgium Trade Agreement to the extent necessary to enable the Australian Government to apply a duty of 10 % ad valorem with no primage duty on imports of vegetable parchment from all countries.

p. t. Sydney, 26th March 1954