

No. 3841

**ITALY
and
SYRIA**

**Trade Agreement (with exchange of letters). Signed at
Damascus, on 10 November 1955**

Official text: French.

Registered by Italy on 15 May 1957.

**ITALIE
et
SYRIE**

**Accord commercial (avec échange de lettres). Signé à
Damas, le 10 novembre 1955**

Texte officiel français.

Enregistré par l'Italie le 15 mai 1957.

[TRANSLATION — TRADUCTION]

No. 3841. TRADE AGREEMENT¹ BETWEEN THE ITALIAN REPUBLIC AND THE SYRIAN REPUBLIC. SIGNED AT DAMASCUS, ON 10 NOVEMBER 1955

The Government of the Italian Republic and the Government of the Syrian Republic, desiring to develop trade between their two countries, have agreed on the following provisions :

Article 1

Trade between the Italian Republic and the Syrian Republic shall conform to the import and export systems applicable in each of the two countries to the import and export of similar goods originating in any other country, subject to the exceptions specified in article 6.

Article 2

1. The Government of the Italian Republic shall authorize the import into Italy of goods of Syrian origin imported directly into Italy. The Government of the Syrian Republic shall authorize the export of such goods.

2. The Government of the Syrian Republic shall authorize the import into Syria of goods of Italian origin imported directly into Syria. The Government of the Italian Republic shall authorize the export of such goods.

Article 3

In the event of the imposition of general import quotas, each of the High Contracting Parties shall allocate to the other Contracting Party a share of the established quotas after prior consultation between the two Parties.

Article 4

1. Payments between the Syrian Republic and the Italian Republic resulting from the application of this Agreement shall be made in accordance with the legislation on exchange control in force in each of the two countries.

¹ Came into force on 27 February 1956, five days after the deposit in Rome, on 22 February 1956, of the Syrian instrument of ratification, in accordance with article 9.

2. Such payments shall be made in US dollars or in any other currency accepted by the exporting country.

3. Each of the two Governments undertakes to authorize the transfer of currency from its country to that of the other Contracting Party to cover such payments.

Article 5

The two Contracting Parties shall grant each other most-favoured-nation treatment on a basis of reciprocity, in particular in matters concerning :

(a) Customs duties and any other duties or taxes, the method of levying duties and taxes and the regulations, formalities and charges connected with the customs clearance, warehousing and transport of goods entering, leaving or in transit through the country ;

(b) Formalities for the issue of import and export licences.

Article 6

The provisions of this Agreement relating to most-favoured-nation treatment shall not apply :

(a) To such special benefits as have been or may be granted by either of the two Contracting Parties with a view to facilitating frontier traffic with neighbouring States ;

(b) To such benefits as have been or may be granted by either of the two Contracting Parties to other States with a view to the formation of a customs union or the establishment of a free trade area ;

(c) To such benefits as have been or may be granted by Italy to the United Kingdom of Libya, to the Republic of San Marino, to the Vatican City State and to Somaliland ;

(d) To such special privileges and benefits as have been granted or may be granted by Syria to the Arab States ;

(e) To such privileges and benefits as have been or may be granted by one of the Contracting Parties by virtue of its participation in a community instituted between a number of countries for the purpose of jointly organizing one or more branches of production, trade and services, or safeguarding their security.

Article 7

In order to ensure the proper application of this Agreement and to strengthen and increase economic co-operation between the two countries, the two Contracting Parties shall set up a Mixed Syrian-Italian Commission the main functions of which shall be :

(a) To supervise the application of this Agreement ;

(b) To overcome any difficulties that may arise in connexion with the application of this Agreement ;

(c) To make proposals for the improvement and expansion of economic and technical relations between the two countries.

The Commission shall meet at the request of either Contracting Party.

Article 8

This Agreement shall be valid for one year and shall be extended from year to year by tacit agreement unless it is denounced in writing by either Contracting Party not less than three months before its expiry.

Article 9

This Agreement shall enter into force five days after the deposit in Rome of the Syrian instrument of ratification.

DONE at Damascus, in two copies in French, on 10 November 1955.

For the Government
of the Italian Republic :

Raffaele FERRETTI
Minister Plenipotentiary
Chairman of the Italian Economic
Delegation in Syria

For the Government
of the Syrian Republic :

A. HOMAD
Acting Minister
of National Economy

EXCHANGE OF LETTERS

I

Damascus, 10 November 1955

Your Excellency,

With reference to article 2 of the Trade Agreement between the Government of the Italian Republic and the Government of the Syrian Republic signed today,¹ I have the honour to confirm that the Government of the Italian Republic will issue, during the period of validity of the said Agreement, licences for the import of at least 5,000 tons of ginned cotton from Syria.

The Government of Italy will also encourage the import of hard wheat and other cereals from Syria.

¹ See p. 159 of this volume.

The Government of Syria, for its part, will encourage the import from Italy of rayon yarn, staple fibre, textiles and soft wheat needed by Syria.

I have the honour to be, etc.

Raffaele FERRETTI
Minister Plenipotentiary
Chairman of the Italian Delegation

His Excellency Dr. Abdul Wahab Homad
Acting Minister of National Economy
Damascus

II

Damascus, 10 November 1955

Your Excellency,

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter of this date reading as follows :

[*See letter I*]

I have the honour to confirm the contents of the above letter.

I have the honour to be, etc.

A. HOMAD
Acting Minister of National Economy

His Excellency Mr. Raffaele Ferretti
Minister Plenipotentiary
Chairman of the Italian Economic Delegation in Syria
Damascus

III

Damascus, 10 November 1955

Your Excellency,

With reference to article 4 of the Trade Agreement between the Government of the Italian Republic and the Government of the Syrian Republic signed today, I have the honour to confirm that payments under article 4 will in no case be subject in Italy to conditions less favourable than those applied to similar payments with any other country.

I have the honour to be, etc.

Raffaele FERRETTI
Minister Plenipotentiary
Chairman of the Italian Delegation

His Excellency Dr. Abdul Wahab Homad
Acting Minister of National Economy
Damascus

IV

Damascus, 10 November 1955

Your Excellency,

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter of this date reading as follows :

[See letter III]

I have the honour to be, etc.

A. HOMAD
Acting Minister of National Economy

His Excellency Mr. Raffaele Ferretti
Minister Plenipotentiary
Chairman of the Italian Economic Delegation in Syria
Damascus

V

Damascus, 10 November 1955

Your Excellency,

In the course of the negotiations held at Damascus with a view to the conclusion of a Trade Agreement between the Government of the Syrian Republic and the Government of the Italian Republic, the Syrian delegation drew attention to the fact that the scheme for the enlargement and equipment of the port of Latakia in order that the major part of Syria's trade may be effected through that port, is nearing completion.

The Syrian Government would therefore be gratified if the competent authorities of the Italian Republic would recommend the Italian shipping companies operating in the Mediterranean to extend their shipping routes to the port of Latakia.

I have the honour to be, etc.

A. HOMAD
Acting Minister of National Economy

His Excellency Mr. Raffaele Ferretti
Minister Plenipotentiary
Chairman of the Italian Economic Delegation in Syria
Damascus

VI

Damascus, 10 November 1955

Your Excellency,

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter of this date reading as follows :

[See letter V]

I have the honour to confirm that the contents of the above letter will be brought to the attention of the competent Italian authorities.

I have the honour to be, etc.

Raffaele FERRETTI
Minister Plenipotentiary
Chairman of the Italian Delegation

His Excellency Dr. Abdul Wahab Homad
Acting Minister of National Economy
Damascus

VII

Damascus, 10 November 1955

Your Excellency,

Article 6 (e) of the Trade Agreement between the Republic of Syria and the Italian Republic signed today provides that the provisions of the Agreement relating to most-favoured-nation treatment shall not apply to such privileges and benefits as have been or may be granted by one of the Contracting Parties by virtue of its participation in a community instituted between a number of countries for the purpose of jointly organizing one or more branches of production, trade and services, or safeguarding their security.

J'ai l'honneur de vous préciser que ce texte vise les privilèges et avantages que l'Italie a été amenée à consentir à ses partenaires au sein de la Communauté Européenne du Charbon et de l'Acier.

Veuillez agréer, Excellence, l'assurance de ma haute considération.

Raffaele FERRETTI
Ministre Plénipotentiaire
Président de la Délégation Italienne

S. E. D^r Abdul Wahab Homad
Ministre de l'Économie Nationale p. i.
Damas

VIII

Damas, le 10 novembre 1955

Monsieur le Ministre,

J'ai l'honneur de vous accuser réception de votre lettre de ce jour ainsi conçue :

[*Voir lettre VII*]

Veuillez agréer, Excellence, l'assurance de ma haute considération.

A. HOMAD
Ministre de l'Économie Nationale p. i.

S. E. Raffaele Ferretti
Ministre Plénipotentiaire
Président de la Délégation Économique Italienne en Syrie
Damas

IX

Damas, le 10 novembre 1955

Monsieur le Ministre,

Me référant aux pourparlers qui ont abouti, en date de ce jour, à la signature d'un Accord Commercial entre nos deux Pays, j'ai l'honneur de vous proposer, afin d'assurer davantage le développement des échanges entre l'Italie et la Syrie, que les deux Gouvernements permettent, dans le cadre de leurs règlements respectifs et subsidiairement aux règles de paiement stipulées à l'Article quatre de l'Accord précité, le régime de compensation privée autant que l'importateur et l'exportateur consentent à traiter de telles opérations.

I have the honour to explain that this text refers to the privileges and benefits which Italy has agreed to grant to its partners in the European Coal and Steel Community.

I have the honour to be, etc.

Raffaele FERRETTI
Minister Plenipotentiary
Chairman of the Italian Delegation

His Excellency Dr. Abdul Wahab Homad
Acting Minister of National Economy
Damascus

VIII

Damascus, 10 November 1955

Your Excellency,

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter of this date reading as follows :

[See letter VII]

I have the honour to be, etc.

A. HOMAD
Acting Minister of National Economy

His Excellency Mr. Raffaele Ferretti
Minister Plenipotentiary
Chairman of the Italian Economic Delegation in Syria
Damascus

IX

Damascus, 10 November 1955

Your Excellency,

With reference to the negotiations which today led to the signature of a Trade Agreement between our two countries, I have the honour to propose, in order further to promote the development of trade between Italy and Syria, that the two Governments should allow, within the framework of their respective regulation and subsidiarily to the payment arrangements set out in article 4 of the said Agreement, the establishment of private compensation arrangements in so far as the importer and exporter are prepared to engage in such transactions.

I should be grateful if you would inform me of your Government's agreement to the foregoing.

I have the honour to be, etc.

Raffaele FERRETTI
Minister Plenipotentiary
Chairman of the Italian Delegation

His Excellency Dr. Abdul Wahab Homad
Acting Minister of National Economy
Damascus

X

Damascus, 10 November 1955

Your Excellency,

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter of this date reading as follows :

[See letter IX]

I have the honour to inform you that my Government agrees to the foregoing.

I have the honour to be, etc.

A. HOMAD
Acting Minister of National Economy

His Excellency Mr. Raffaele Ferretti
Minister Plenipotentiary
Chairman of the Italian Economic Delegation in Syria
Damascus
