

EDITORIAL COMMENTS

The Greek Accession Treaty

The signature of the acts concerning the accession of Greece to the European Communities brings to an end a highly complex process of examination, negotiation and technical adaptation which stretches back to 12 June 1975, when Greece applied to join the Communities, and to 27 July 1976, when at the opening conference for the negotiations in Brussels, the first formal declarations of the basic negotiating positions were made.

It was agreed at the inaugural Ministerial meeting of the negotiations that Greece would accept the "*acquis communautaire*" subject to transitional measures to solve problems of adjustment; these measures would be designed to secure an overall balance of reciprocal advantages but would not involve changes in Community rules. The negotiations have resulted in the establishment of a general five-year transitional period, by the end of which the bulk of adaptation would be complete. However, a seven-year transitional period has been agreed for a small number of agricultural products and the freedom of movement of workers within the enlarged Community will not be achieved until the end of a seven-year transitional period.

On the *Customs Union for Industrial Products* a five-year period for the progressive elimination of residual customs duties on imports into Greece of products originating in the Community and for the progressive alignment of the Greek tariff on the CCT has been established. Quantitative restrictions between Greece and the Community will be abolished on accession, with the exception of fourteen products for which Greece has been authorised to maintain transitional quotas. A general *Reciprocal Safeguard Mechanism*, similar in style to Article 135 of the Act of Accession with Denmark, Ireland and the United Kingdom, has been included and a special emergency procedure has been agreed in case of serious economic difficulties.

In the field of the *Common Commercial Policy* Greece will be permitted to retain during the five-year transitional period certain quantitative restrictions toward GATT and state-trading countries for a small number of products. Greece will apply the Generalized Preferences scheme from accession, as well as the Community preferential agreements and the Multifibre arrangements, subject to transitional and adjustment protocols.

Although the general transitional period of five years will also apply to the field of *agriculture*, a special transitional period of seven years has been agreed for fresh and processed tomatoes, and for fresh and preserved

peaches. During the transitional period, the difference between prices of Greek and Community products will be compensated for by a system of accession compensation amounts, as in the case of the previous enlargement. A significant feature here is that Community production aids will be progressively extended to Greek producers during the transitional period, as will deficiency payments systems.

As was indicated above the *freedom of movement of workers* will be achieved at the end of a seven-year transitional period. However priority will be accorded to Greek workers, as nationals of a Community Member State, where it proves necessary to recruit workers from outside the Community as at present constituted. Access for members of the families of Greek workers legally employed in one of the present Member States will be progressively achieved at the end of a five-year transitional period.

It is intended that the inclusion of the drachma in the EUA basket of currencies will be achieved during the five-year transitional period according to the procedures laid down in the EMS resolution of the European Council of 5 December 1978. Greece will apply in full the Community's *Own Resources* system from the date of accession, but, in order to avoid Greece becoming a net contributor to the Community budget during the early years of the transitional period, and in order to fulfil Community commitments in the agricultural sector of the negotiations, it has been agreed that a special mechanism should be set up during the five-year transitional period concerning Greece's participation in the Community Own Resources system with regard to the GNP/VAT element. As a result of these arrangements it is calculated that Greece's net benefit from the Community budget will amount to about 80m EUA during the first year of the transitional period.

On *Regional Policy* a protocol similar to that relating to Ireland in the 1972 Act of Accession has been agreed with Greece. The designation of the Greek regions that will be eligible for national state aid and aid from the European Regional Fund will take place after accession according to the rules and procedures of the EEC Treaty.

From the date of accession Greece will participate fully in all the *Institutions* and other bodies in the same way as the present Member States. In the enlarged Council of Ministers, of ten members, Greece's vote will be weighted by a factor of five when the Council is required to act by a qualified majority. The Commission will be increased to fourteen members, including one Greek Commissioner. The Court of Justice will have one additional Judge. Greece will have twenty-four seats in the European Parliament and twelve members in the Economic and Social Committee.

It has been agreed that the acts of accession will enter into force, following ratification by the ten national Parliaments, on 1 January 1981. During

the intervening period a procedure of systematic consultation with Greece on the development of the *acquis communautaire* (similar to that used in the previous enlargement) will be established. At the time of writing, no official English language text of the new acts of accession is available but it is intended that a detailed analysis of the accession arrangements shall be included in an article in a later issue of this *Review*.