

PN-ADC-646



**Electronic References for EU Tariff & Trade Information**

*Prepared for*

**Agricultural Led Export Business (ALEB)**

*Funded by USAID*

*January 2004*

## **Foreword**

**This report was prepared for ALEB, a USAID-financed project designed to increase Egyptian exports of processed fruit and vegetable products. The project team traveled to Brussels on January 12, 2004 to meet with European Commission representatives to obtain EU agricultural production and trade policy information, which could be used in conjunction with separate reports prepared on Hungary, Poland, Germany, and Turkey regarding export competition and market opportunities for Egypt.**

**The purpose of this brief report is to provide Egyptian exporters with websites obtained from this trip, which include regularly updated EU regulations and tariffs. EU published information on production and trade policy for fruits and vegetables and olive oil will be FedEx separately.**

### **EU Websites**

The European Commission develops and operates several databases in conjunction with Member States' Customs and Taxation Services. The databases are part of the information systems of Taxation and Customs Union and can be found at:

[http://europa.eu.int/comm/taxation\\_customs/databases/database.htm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/taxation_customs/databases/database.htm)

Some of the more useful electronic databases are:

- TARIC – Integrated Community Tariff
- QUOTA – Tariff Quotas and Ceilings
- BTI – Binding Tariff Information
- TRANSIT – Transit Customs Offices

Descriptions of the websites are as follows:

#### **TARIC**

One of the more useful databases is TARIC, the Integrated Tariff of the Community. This database contains a nomenclature in all 11 official languages with about 15,000 tariff lines. It shows all third country and preferential duty rates actually applicable as well as all commercial policy measures. For example, the database can be used by Egyptian exporters to obtain tariff information for products it exports to the EU as well as for products exported by competitor countries.

The TARIC comprises the Community legislation as published in the Official Journal of the European Union. It constitutes an instrument for practical use and information, but does not have a legal status in itself. The TARIC serves as a direct basis for the preparation of Member States working tariffs. Another field for the application of TARIC codes is in automated customs clearance. The use of the TARIC codes is obligatory in customs and statistical declarations in trade with third countries.

The database can be found at:

[http://europa.eu.int/comm/taxation\\_customs/dds/cgi-bin/tarchap?Lang=EN](http://europa.eu.int/comm/taxation_customs/dds/cgi-bin/tarchap?Lang=EN)

The TARIC query screen allows you to:

- Browse the TARIC publication at any simulation date in the past
- Ask the description context of a specific TARIC code (10 digits)
  - Can enter 6 digits, which are common for most countries, to obtain codes and descriptions for products up to 10 digits.
- Ask the duty rates for a specific TARIC code (10 digits) for one country or all countries
  - In case of import into the EU enter the country of origin of goods (such as Egypt) or leave the field empty to display the community tariff for all possible origins.
  - In case of exports from the EU enter the country of destination of the goods, or leave the field empty to display the community legislation for all possible destinations.
- Ask the restriction for a specific TARIC code (10 digits) for one country or all countries

### ***Quota***

For a number of products, a reduction of the customs duty payable is allowed for limited quantities of imports. This limitation takes the form of tariff quotas or of tariff ceilings. Tariff quotas may apply to imports of a specified origin, normally within the framework of preferential tariff arrangements, or to imports of all origins. Recourse to tariff ceilings is normally confined to preferential tariff arrangements.

As the EU is a customs union, tariff quotas and ceilings are managed centrally by the Commission. Taxation and Customs Union DG performs this management in the Commission's name, except in the case of tariff quotas managed by import license, in which case the management is normally the responsibility of Agriculture DG.

The database for tariff quotas and ceilings on the EUROPA web site displays the balances of each tariff quota and ceiling applicable in the present year and in the past year. It also indicates certain other important information, such as the date when a particular tariff quota or ceiling is reached. This information is subject to constant change as a result of the daily operations, which take place. The information on the EUROPA web site is taken on the evening of each working day and is therefore correct at that time. It remains on the web site until the evening of the following working day.

This website can be found at:

[http://europa.eu.int/comm/taxation\\_customs/dds/en/qotcau.htm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/taxation_customs/dds/en/qotcau.htm)

### ***BTI***

The main objectives of Binding Tariff Information are:

- Providing appropriate legal guarantees to traders
- Ensuring the uniform and correct application of the customs and statistical nomenclature in the whole Community
- Allowing the duty-rates to be established at importation, as well as the application of any other legal provisions which depend on the classification
- Allowing the use of import/export certificates or of advance-fixing certificates under the Common Agricultural Policy, or the calculation of export-refunds, etc.

This website can be found at:

[http://europa.eu.int/comm/taxation\\_customs/databases/bti\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/taxation_customs/databases/bti_en.htm)

[http://europa.eu.int/comm/taxation\\_customs/dds/en/ebticau.htm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/taxation_customs/dds/en/ebticau.htm)

### ***TRANSIT***

The Transit Customs Office List (COL) Home page comprises the list of authorized customs offices for Community/common transit operations. The information on this site is based on the data provided by the competent authorities.

This website can be found at:

[http://europa.eu.int/comm/taxation\\_customs/dds/en/csrdhome.htm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/taxation_customs/dds/en/csrdhome.htm)

**Travel Contacts**

**Tomas Garcia Azcarate**  
Fruit & Vegetable Unit  
Directorate-General for Agriculture  
European Commission  
Commission europeenne - Bur.: L130 09/29 B 1049, Rue de la Loi 130, B1040  
Bruxelles, Belgium  
Tel: 32-2-295-3317  
Fax: 32-2-295-3709  
[tomas.garcia-azcarate@cec.eu.int](mailto:tomas.garcia-azcarate@cec.eu.int)

**Enrique Garcia Martin-Romo**  
Administrator  
Tomatoes, Peaches Unit  
Directorate-General for Agriculture  
European Commission  
Commission europeenne - Bur.: L130 09/29 B 1049, Rue de la Loi 130, B1040  
Bruxelles, Belgium  
Tel: 32-2-296-2081  
Fax: 32-2-296-4267  
[enrique.garcia@cec.eu.int](mailto:enrique.garcia@cec.eu.int)

**Dr. Angel Falder Huerta**  
Citrus Unit  
Administrator  
European Commission  
Commission europeenne - Bur.: L130 09/29 B 1049, Rue de la Loi 130, B1040  
Bruxelles, Belgium  
Tel: 32-2-299-9838  
Fax: 32-2-295-3709  
[angel.falder-huerta@cec.eu.int](mailto:angel.falder-huerta@cec.eu.int)

**Eric Willems**  
Administrator  
European Commission  
Rue de la Loi/Wetstraat 130, B-1040  
Bruxelles, Belgium  
Tel: 32-2-296-0025  
Fax: 32-2-295-8453  
[eric.willems@cec.eu.int](mailto:eric.willems@cec.eu.int)

**Antonio Bellucci**  
Administrator  
Olives and Fibers Unit  
European Commission  
Rue de la Loi/Wetstraat 130, B-1040  
Bruxelles, Belgium  
Tel: 32-2-295-7638  
Fax: 32-2-296-6009  
[antonio.bellucci@cec.eu.int](mailto:antonio.bellucci@cec.eu.int)

**Wolfgang Munch**  
Enlargement Unit  
European Commission  
Rue de la Loi/Wetstraat 130, B-1040  
Bruxelles, Belgium  
[wolfgang.munch@cec.eu.int](mailto:wolfgang.munch@cec.eu.int)

**Norval Francis, Jr.**  
Minister-Counselor for Agricultural Affairs  
US Mission to the European Union  
Blvd. Du Regent No 27 1000  
Bruxelles, Belgium  
Tel: 32-2-508-2760  
Fax: 32-2-511-0918  
[norval.francis@usda.gov](mailto:norval.francis@usda.gov)

**Christine Strossman**  
Agricultural Attache  
US Mission to the European Union  
Blvd. Du Regent No 27 1000  
Bruxelles, Belgium  
Tel: 32-2-508-2760  
Fax: 32-2-511-0918  
[strossman@fas.usda.gov](mailto:strossman@fas.usda.gov)

**Peter Talks**  
Agricultural Specialist  
US Mission to the European Union  
Blvd. Du Regent No 27 1000  
Bruxelles, Belgium  
Tel: 32-2-508-2760  
Fax: 32-2-511-0918  
[peter.talks@usda.gov](mailto:peter.talks@usda.gov)

**Pascale Rouhier**  
**Delegate**  
**FRUCOM**  
**Square Ambiorix, 32 - F4/Boite 24 B-1000**  
**Bruxelles, Belgium**  
**Tel: 32-2-736-7997**  
**Fax: 32-2-732-6766**  
**sacar@linkline.be**

**Sylvie Mamias**  
**Policy Officer**  
**FRUCOM**  
**Square Ambiorix, 32 - F4/Boite 24 B-1000**  
**Bruxelles, Belgium**  
**Tel: 32-2-736-7997**  
**Fax: 32-2-732-6766**  
**sacar-eu@pro.tiscali.be**