

## **The Preferential Treatment Provided by the European Community to Developing Countries —Legal Rules and Economic Development**

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### **Abstract**

The European Community has elaborated upon some special trade programs applied to the products imported from the developing countries. These programs aim at reducing tariffs or providing free duty to products made in those countries to promote economic development. The first and most important of these is the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP). The EC may conclude some preferential arrangements with developing countries pursuant to the EC Treaty. The most comprehensive is the Agreement between the EC and ACP countries. This article aims at discussing the experience of the EC in this regard.

**Key Words:** World Trade Organization (WTO), General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade 1994 (GATT 1994), European Community (EC), Generalized System of Preference (GSP), Cotonou Agreement