

Finance



Business

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EEC expects petrochem deal with Gulf

By a staff reporter

THE European Economic Community allows upto \$5 million of petrochemicals exports by the AGCC countries, to Europe free of any tariff.

Thereafter, 13 per cent surcharge is introduced on the products, as compared to 17 per cent imposed by the United States.

Japan does not allow any petrochemicals to enter its markets.

This statements were made in Abu Dhabi yesterday by Dr U. Oaldrup, head of the first EEC mission now on a visit to the UAE. Addressing members of the board of directors of the Abu Dhabi Chamber of Commerce and Industry, he said, that a top official of the EEC, was presently discussing a compromise formula with the Secretary General of the Arab Gulf Cooperation Council in Riyadh.

The leader of the EEC mission did not rule out a compromise in the petrochemicals issue. He said similar situations had been sorted out earlier with several Asian, African and Latin American countries. The discussions were long and thorny, however, despite the problems involved, solutions came up, the EEC official said.

He said, that a compromise solution would be eventually worked out with

AGCC countries.

Earlier, Al Haj Abdullah Al Muhairbi, the Vice-President of the Abu Dhabi Chamber, addressing the delegation said that EEC, which represents an economic unity has every right to protect its member states, but it has no right to do harm to business partners of its members. Mr Muhairbi warned that the Gulf states would be compelled to revise their stand towards its old trading partners, who are members of EEC.

Earlier, the Ambassador of Italy to the UAE Dr Luca Daniele Biolato gave a graphic description of the development of the UAE, since its independence and lauded the leadership of the President His Highness Shaikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan.

Contrary to Press reports, the official said AGCC countries were the third largest trade partners of the EEC, and not the first. EEC, he said was the largest buyer of AGCC goods, with both sides accounting for \$30 billion of trade annually.

Dr Daldrup said that his accompanying delegation was basically interested in farm products.

He said that a potential outcome of negotiations with UAE traders could be EEC's participation in developing the canning industry for the vegetables.

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