

ACTION

Limited B  
GATT/CP/14  
11 March 1949

ORIGINAL : English

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

Contracting Parties

ACTIVITIES OF THE INTERNATIONAL CUSTOMS TARIFF BUREAU

Note by the Chairman of the Contracting Parties

1. As was the case for the tariff negotiations in 1947, the preparations for the Annecy tariff negotiations have been facilitated by the publications of the International Custom Tariff Bureau, which made available to the governments most of the tariffs of the negotiating countries in five languages. Nevertheless it appears that some governments have experienced difficulties in the preparation of their lists of requests as a number of tariffs have not been published by the Bureau and a large number of other tariff schedules or nomenclatures have not been brought up to date.

2. It appears that the activities of the Bureau have been hampered by the following :

- a) The subscriptions to the Bureau are not sufficient to cover the increase in costs; moreover, a substantial number of governments (including contracting parties and acceding governments) have failed to pay their subscriptions and large arrears have thus accumulated;
- b) Some governments have ceased to advise the adoption of new legislation and new tariff schedules; and
- c) Other governments have not adopted a practical procedure for communicating the changes in their tariff schedules.

3. As the Contracting Parties will remember, the Executive Committee of the ICITO adopted on 14th September 1948 a resolution drawing the attention of the Members of the Interim Commission to the desirability of strengthening the financial position of the Bureau pending the adoption of working arrangements between the Bureau and the ITO (See Doc. ICITO/EC.2/14 and ICITO/EC.2/SR14). It will greatly assist the work of the Contracting Parties if an early settlement of subscriptions in arrears can be made by the governments concerned.

4. Points b) and c) have not been examined by the Executive Committee of the ICITO as they have emerged in the discussions which have taken place between the President of the Bureau and the Executive Secretary of the Interim Commission regarding the arrangements contemplated between the Bureau and the ITO.

5. It would be useful for the future work of the Contracting Parties if the governments which have not furnished the necessary documentation to the Bureau could communicate at their earliest convenience all the changes that have been introduced in their tariffs since their last official notification, and if the governments which have not adopted a system of separate slips for the announcement of tariff changes could examine the advisability of adopting a practical method of communicating such changes. The model attached may be of use to governments considering this possibility.

6. The Executive Secretary of the ICITO has informed me that the Bureau has transmitted to him detailed information on the various points raised in this note and that he will gladly communicate any information required by the governments concerned.

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(Country)

NOTIFICATION OF CUSTOMS TARIFF MODIFICATIONS

..... 194...

Name of tariff law or  
schedule modified: .....

Law or resolution effect-  
ing modifications: .....

Modifications take  
effect on: .....

Nature of modifications  
etc: .....

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Changes in tariff schedule:

Tariff Item No.	Description of Product	Old Rate of Duty	New Rate of Duty	Remarks

To: International Customs Tariff Bureau  
Rue de l'Association, 38  
Bruxelles, Belgique.

From: .....  
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