

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED
LIMITED B
GATT/CP.5/S.26
19 December 1950
ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

CONTRACTING PARTIES
Fifth Session

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE TWENTY-SIXTH MEETING

Held at the Marine Spa, Torquay, England
on Saturday, 16 December 1950, at 2.30 p.m.

Chairman: Mr. A. ARGYROPOULOS (Greece)

- Subjects discussed:
1. The Brochure "Standard Practices for Import and Export Restrictions and Exchange Controls".
 2. Item 32 - Other Business
 3. Item 29 - Date of Sixth Session
 4. Christmas Greetings

1. The Brochure "Standard Practices for Import and Export Restrictions and Exchange Controls".

The CHAIRMAN drew attention to the brochure "Standard Practices for Import and Export Restrictions and Exchange Controls".

The EXECUTIVE SECRETARY pointed out that this document was available only to delegations. It would remain restricted until the release date of 27 December.

2. Item 32 - Other Business

(a) Reappointment of intersessional committees (GATT/CP.5/51)

The committee proposed in this document was approved.

(b) Annex Protocol, Application of Schedules (GATT/CP.5/35)

Sir Stephen HOLMES (United Kingdom) said that his delegation was concerned about the proposal contained in this document. He had suggested at the last Session that it was unwise to continue indefinitely to treat as present contracting parties who were in fact absent. It was regrettable that Lebanon and Syria were not present at this Session. He could recognise special reasons why Cuba had been unable to give notification until now of the application of the Annex Schedules, but he saw no reason why the proposed extension should be granted to Lebanon and Syria. He was also concerned at the case of Brazil. At the last Session the Norwegian representative had requested an extension, explaining the reasons for this request, and an extension had been granted. It would have been possible for Brazil to request an extension at the same time. He urged that some consideration be given to this matter before an automatic extension were granted to all four countries.

Mr. EVANS (United States of America) agreed with the United Kingdom delegation in their concern over automatic or ill-considered extension of dates. In the case of Syria and Lebanon he thought that the Contracting Parties should take no action, at least until some request had been received from those governments.

The EXECUTIVE SECRETARY suggested that the Contracting Parties might consider whether they wished an official enquiry to be made on their behalf to Syria and Lebanon on their position with regard to the General Agreement.

Mr. AZIZ AHMED (Pakistan) did not agree that it would be right to address a formal communication on this subject, although the Executive Secretary could enquire informally of both governments their intentions. He considered the procedure outlined in document GATT/CP.5/35 a fair one.

Mr. MENEZES (Brazil) explained that his government had not yet been able to put their Annex signature into effect. He thought that his government would be able to notify the concessions, however, in the terms of the proposed decision.

After some discussion the text of the Decision contained in document GATT/CP.5/35 was agreed, including the date of 1 April. It was also agreed to record that no further delay beyond 1 April would be accorded to any of the governments involved. A communication would be addressed by the Executive Secretary to the governments of Lebanon and Syria, enquiring their intentions with respect to the Annex Protocol of Terms of Accession.

The Decision was approved, by 20 votes to none.

(c) Publication of a collection of Documents (GATT/CP.5/43)

Mr. BORESEN (Norway) explained that government officials had felt the need for background material concerning the formation of the Agreement. A compilation as suggested would be of assistance to officials who were dealing with the GATT for the first time and also to the Contracting Parties during their sessions, as questions of interpretation frequently arose. He agreed with the proposals of the Executive Secretary, and thought that he should be requested to prepare a list of documents which might be published.

This was approved.

(d) De-restriction of 5th Session Decisions and Resolutions (GATT/CP.5/41)

The proposal that the decisions and resolutions of the 5th Session of the Contracting Parties be de-restricted on 1 January 1951 was approved.

(e) Decisions on Accession (GATT/CP.5/52)

It was explained that the draft Decision related exclusively to the Torquay Protocol and was simply an assurance to Acceding Governments of their accession.

The Decision was approved by 21 votes to none.

3. Item 29 - Date of Sixth Session

After some discussion, the date of Monday, 17 December, 1951, was agreed upon. It was further agreed that the Sixth Session should take place in Geneva.

4. Christmas Greetings

There was a reciprocal exchange of Christmas greetings.

Sir Stephen HOPKINS (United Kingdom) expressed the gratitude of the Contracting Parties to the various representatives who had undertaken the task of temporary Chairmen of the meetings.

M. CASSIENS (Belgium) wished to thank the United Kingdom representative for the warm welcome which his government and country had extended to the Contracting Parties, and for the admirable preparations made for the meetings.

Mr. EVANS (United States of America) supported the remarks of the Belgian representative, and asked that the Executive Secretary be authorised to write to the Mayor of Torquay thanking him and the people of Torquay for their hospitality.

This was agreed.