

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

CPC/W/18
8 April 1975

Special Distribution

Preferential Arrangements
Among Developing Countries
Negotiated in GATT

COMMITTEE OF PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES

Enlargement of the Protocol

Note by the Secretariat

1. At the seventh meeting of the Committee of Participating Countries in December, 1974, consideration was given to the possibilities for enlargement of the Protocol¹ in the light of the application by Paraguay for accession without negotiations and the interest expressed by Romania, Sri Lanka and Iran in exploring the possibilities for accession (CPC/17). Note was also taken of the interest in the Protocol expressed by Bangladesh, the Dominican Republic and Madagascar.

2. With respect to the application by Paraguay, the Group agreed to revert to this matter at its next meeting. With regard to Romania and Sri Lanka, the Committee agreed that participating countries would use their best endeavours to provide information on tariffs, trade data and trade regulations applicable to products contained in the Romanian and Sri Lankan lists, using the pro forma provided by the secretariat (CPC/W/16) by the end of February 1975. Participating countries would endeavour to submit lists of products for which they would like to explore the possibilities for concessions in the markets of Romania and Sri Lanka by the end of January 1975. Romania and Sri Lanka on the other hand, would be asked to provide information with respect to these lists on tariffs, trade data and trade regulations. Broadly similar arrangements would apply with respect to Iran. The Committee also agreed to invite the representatives of Paraguay, Romania, Sri Lanka and² Iran to its next meeting for the purpose of exchanging views on their communications² with members of the Committee.

¹Secretariat note CPC/W/14 drew attention to a number of points relevant to the enlargement of the Protocol.

²See respectively documents CPC/15, CPC/11, CPC/14 and CPC/16.

3. The following paragraphs summarize developments with respect to the enlargement of the Protocol since the December 1974 meeting of the Committee.

Request for accession by Paraguay

4. By a communication dated 10 February 1975, the Government of Paraguay has submitted a memorandum describing its foreign trade régime. As indicated in CPC/19, this document has been issued as L/4159. In the light of its contents, participating countries might wish to give further consideration to the request for accession without carrying out negotiations for the exchange of concessions submitted by the Government of Paraguay (CPC/15) in accordance with paragraph 14 of the Protocol. The representative of Paraguay has informed the secretariat that because of prior commitments in Paraguay he will be unable to attend the eighth meeting of the Committee for the purpose of exchanging views with members on his country's application.

Procedure for exploring the possibilities of accession

Romania

5. Brazil, Chile, Greece, Israel and Turkey are the participating countries which have so far submitted lists of products for which they would like to explore the possibilities for concessions in the market of Romania. Information on tariffs, trade data and trade regulations applicable to the products contained in the Romanian list (CPC/11) has been provided by Israel, Turkey and Spain. The above-mentioned lists of products and information have been transmitted to the delegation of Romania.

Sri Lanka

6. Brazil, Chile, India and Turkey, have submitted lists of products for which they would like to explore the possibilities for concessions in the market of Sri Lanka. Information with respect to tariffs, trade data and trade regulations applicable to the products contained in the Sri Lankan list (CPC/14) has been provided by Brazil, Republic of Korea, Turkey and Spain. The secretariat has transmitted the above lists of products and information to the delegation of Sri Lanka.

Iran

7. The Iranian list of products of export interest mentioned in the communication from Iran (CPC/16) has not so far been received and, to the present, participating countries have not provided lists of products for which they would like to explore the possibilities for concessions in the market of Iran.

Secretariat studies for Bangladesh, the Dominican Republic and Madagascar

8. The secretariat studies referred to in paragraph 13 of CPC/17 have been completed and transmitted to the respective delegations. These identify products of export interest to Bangladesh, the Dominican Republic and Madagascar benefiting from existing concessions under the Protocol.

Other matters

9. The attention of the Committee is drawn to the discussions at the recent meeting of the MTN Group "Tropical Products" concerning negotiations in the area of tropical products. It was agreed that tropical products may be the subject of negotiations between developing countries in accordance with special arrangements or procedures which have been or may be accepted for such negotiations. Presumably, the Protocol could be considered as a special arrangement where negotiations among developing countries on tropical products could take place.

10. Points for consideration

(i) Members of the Committee may wish to further consider the request from Paraguay for accession to the Protocol without negotiations under the relevant provisions of paragraph 14 of the Protocol with a view to reaching an early decision on the matter.

(ii) In the light of the suggested programme for conducting an exploration of the possibilities for exchanging concessions with Romania and Sri Lanka, members whose countries have not so far submitted lists of products or provided information on commercial policy and trade flows with respect to the Romanian and Sri Lankan lists, may wish to indicate their interest, if any, in exploring the possibilities for exchanging concessions with Romania and Sri Lanka.

(iii) Members of the Committee, including those countries which have already exchanged information with Romania and Sri Lanka may wish to make comments and suggestions on how the possibilities for exchanging concessions might be further pursued taking into account the procedures suggested in CPC/S/1.

(iv) Members of the Committee may wish to consider how an exchange of information between Iran and interested members might be facilitated and make suggestions in this respect.

(v) Now that the secretariat has completed the initial task of identifying products included in the Protocol which are of interest to Bangladesh, the Dominican Republic and Madagascar, members may wish to consider whether any follow-up action is required from the Committee by way, for example, of inviting these three countries to express the extent of their interest in exploring the possibilities for accession to the Protocol consistently with the procedures outlined in document CPC/S/1.

(vi) Members of the Committee may wish to offer comments or make suggestions concerning tropical products as mentioned in paragraph 9 above.