

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

CPC/W/22
4 July 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 eighth meeting of the Committee of Participating Countries in April 1975 (CPC/22), 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. 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 Committee decided to invite the representative of Paraguay to attend its next meeting for the purpose of exchanging views with members of the Committee and asked the secretariat to prepare a note outlining possible terms and conditions which might be appropriate where countries apply for accession to the Protocol without negotiations.
3. With regard to Romania and Sri Lanka the Committee agreed, inter alia, that participating countries which had not submitted lists of products for which they would like to explore possibilities for an exchange of concessions with these two countries should do so at the earliest possible date and preferably no later than 16 May 1975. Participating countries which had not provided information on tariffs, trade data and

¹ Secretariat notes CPC/W/14 and CPC/W/18 drew attention to a number of points relevant to the enlargement of the Protocol.

trade regulations applicable to the products contained in the Romanian and Sri Lankan lists were invited to provide such information by 16 May 1975. The delegations of Romania and Sri Lanka were invited to provide information on commercial policy and trade flows with respect to the products already identified by participating countries no later than 16 May 1975 and for additional products, identified by other participating countries, within a month therefrom. A broadly similar time-table would be applicable with respect to Iran, the delegation of Iran being invited to submit its list of products as early as possible.

4. In the light of the progress made in exploring the possibilities for an exchange of concessions, it was suggested that the delegations of Romania, Sri Lanka and Iran might be in a position to indicate to the July meeting of the Committee whether they would wish to apply for accession to the Protocol and thus enter into negotiations with participating countries.

5. The following paragraphs summarize developments with respect to the enlargement of the Protocol since the April 1975 meeting of the Committee.

Request for accession by Paraguay

6. As decided by the Committee, the representative of Paraguay has been invited to attend the July meeting of the Committee for the purpose of exchanging views with representatives from participating countries on the application for accession by Paraguay. In Document CPC/W/21, the secretariat has outlined possible terms and conditions which might be appropriate for accession to the Protocol without negotiations. In the light of the discussions in the Committee, the secretariat could, if requested, prepare a draft Protocol for the accession of Paraguay for consideration.

Countries having expressed interest in exploring possibilities for accession

Exchange of information

ROMANIA

7. Brazil, Chile, Greece, Israel, Pakistan, Turkey and Yugoslavia have 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 initial Romanian list (CPC/11) has been provided by India, Israel, Turkey and Spain. The above-mentioned lists of products and information have been transmitted to the delegation of Romania. Romania has not so far provided trade and commercial policy data covering the lists of products submitted by participating countries to Romania.

8. The delegation of Romania has, however, submitted additional lists of products of export interest to Romania in the markets of Brazil, Chile, Egypt, Greece, India, Israel, Mexico, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Spain, Turkey, Uruguay and Yugoslavia. These lists have been circulated in CPC/23. As indicated in CPC/23, the Romanian delegation is proposing to initiate preliminary discussions with the participating countries concerned.

SRI LANKA

9. Brazil, Chile, India, Pakistan, Republic of Korea, Turkey and Yugoslavia 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, India, Mexico, Republic of Korea, Spain, Turkey and Yugoslavia. The secretariat has transmitted the above lists of products and information to the delegation of Sri Lanka. The delegation of Sri Lanka has provided relevant information with respect to the products contained in the lists submitted by Greece, Chile, India and Turkey. Information with regard to products contained in the lists submitted by the other participating countries is expected to be forwarded shortly by the delegation of Sri Lanka.

IRAN

10. The Iranian list of products of export interest mentioned in the communication from Iran (CPC/16) has not so far been received. To the present, India, Pakistan, Republic of Korea and Yugoslavia have provided lists of products for which they would like to explore the possibilities for concessions in the market of Iran. These lists have been transmitted to the delegation of Iran. At the request of the Iranian delegation, the secretariat has recently identified products of apparent export interest to Iran which benefit from concessions under the Protocol and provided Iran with additional information on the Protocol itself.

Communications to Romania, Sri Lanka and Iran

11. A secretariat communication to the delegations of Romania, Sri Lanka and Iran, dated 11 June 1975, noted that members of the Committee had expressed the hope that these three countries might soon be in a position to take a decision on applying for accession to the Protocol, thus opening the way for the negotiation of concessions with interested participating countries. So far, the countries concerned have not been in a position to indicate their reaction in this respect. The delegation of Romania has suggested the desirability of holding preliminary discussions with those participating countries in whose markets it has expressed an interest. The delegation of Sri Lanka has informed the secretariat that the matter is under consideration by the Sri Lankan Government. No comments have been received from the delegation of Iran which, as mentioned in paragraph 10 above, has only recently received the additional information requested from the secretariat.

Communications to Bangladesh, the Dominican Republic and Madagascar

12. At its April meeting, the Committee agreed that the delegations of Bangladesh, the Dominican Republic and Madagascar be invited to indicate whether their countries would wish to explore the possibilities for accession to the Protocol in accordance with procedures in CPC/S/1. On 21 May 1975, a communication was sent to the delegations concerned enquiring whether their respective governments would be interested at this stage in exploring the possibilities for accession to the Protocol under the relevant procedures. In response to this communication, the representative of Bangladesh has said that this matter is under active consideration by the competent authorities in Bangladesh and that their reaction might be expected in the near future. At the time of preparation of this note, responses had not been received from the Dominican Republic or Madagascar.

Other matters

13. The attention of the Committee is drawn to the discussions at the April meeting of the Multilateral Trade Negotiations Group "Tropical Products" when guidelines for negotiations on tropical products were drawn up. It was agreed, inter alia, 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 (MTN/TP/1). It has been suggested, both at the April and June meetings of the Group "Tropical Products", that the Protocol could be considered as a special arrangement where negotiations among developing countries on tropical products could take place.

Points for consideration

14. (i) Members of the Committee may wish to consider the possible terms and conditions for accession to the Protocol without negotiations.¹ They might also wish to have an exchange of views with the representative of Paraguay concerning the Paraguayan request for accession to the Protocol without negotiations with a view to reaching a decision on the matter.
- (ii) In the light of the arrangements agreed to at the last meeting (CPC/22 paragraphs 9 and 10) concerning procedures for exploring possibilities for exchanging concessions with Romania, Sri Lanka and Iran, participating countries may have some comments and suggestions to offer with a view to making further progress beyond the stage of exchanging information with the countries concerned.
- (iii) Members may wish to note that the Committee will be informed of any further responses to the communications addressed to the delegations of Bangladesh, the Dominican Republic and Madagascar concerning the scope for exploring the possibilities for accession to the Protocol.
- (iv) Members may have some comments and suggestions to offer with respect to paragraph 13 above.

¹See also CPC/W/21