

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

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THE OPERATION OF PART IV OF THE GENERAL AGREEMENT

Statements by Governments

Addendum

NORWAY

The principles and objectives set out in Part IV of the General Agreement pertain to complex and sometimes rather intractable problems in the field of trade and development. Thus attainment of the aims envisaged is not so much a matter of short-term policy action by individual contracting parties, but depend more on sustained and determined efforts by all contracting parties.

In the view of the Norwegian authorities considerable progress has already been achieved in implementing Part IV of the General Agreement both in the tariff and non-tariff field, inter alia in conjunction with the carrying out of the tasks embodied in the Work Programme as adopted at the twenty-fourth session of the CONTRACTING PARTIES. It is comprehensible, however, that the process of identifying the problems of specific interest to developing countries and the problem of conceiving mutually acceptable solutions require considerable time. In fact, this applies not only to the specific problems of developing countries but to the implementation of the Work Programme as a whole.

The general conclusions with reference to the Work Programme, as adopted by the CONTRACTING PARTIES at their twenty-fifth session, pay special attention to the trade problems of developing countries. In view of the Norwegian authorities it seems premature to pass a final judgment as to whether Part IV of the General Agreement is being satisfactorily implemented, until the operation of the Work Programme has reached a more advanced stage. The difficulties encountered in implementing Part IV are closely interrelated with other problems - particularly those of a more technical nature which the various committees and working parties are considering at present.

For her own part Norway has, as previously notified to the Committee on Trade and Development, already implemented a series of measures in the tariff and non-tariff field of specific interest to the developing countries.

Already before the Kennedy Round, Norway had bound duty-free treatment for a considerable number of tariff positions within the range of some 600 items of specific interest to developing countries. During the Kennedy Round negotiations offers were made for about 85 per cent of the remaining items. As part of the first "tranche" of her implementation of the Kennedy Round concessions Norway abolished customs duties for a series of products of special interest to developing countries. Around 90 per cent of total Norwegian imports from developing countries measured on the basis of 1966 import statistics, were at that moment free of customs duties.