

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

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Expert Group on Adjustment
Assistance Measures

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ADJUSTMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAMMES

Communications from Governments

Addendum

The following notification has been received from the Government of Austria.

1. Further adjustment assistance measures since the last Austrian notification (COM.TD/W/92/Add.5)

- (a) Federal Act on Improvement of Economic Structure of Trade
("Gewerbestrukturverbesserungsgesetz", Federal Gazette No. 453/1969).

This law provides for financial means of promotion at the rate of 3 per cent of the income of the Federal trade tax ("Bundesgewerbesteuer"). These means should give to small and medium sized industries and handicraft enterprises the incentive and the possibility to improve the structure of enterprises, especially in the case of change-over, of rationalizations or of fusion of enterprises by taking up credits, for which the "Burgsgesellschaft m.b.H." can grant interest allowances.

- (b) Property Structure Fund ("Besitzstrukturfonds", Federal Gazette No. 298/1969).

According to the Federal Act for promotion of measures to improve the property structure of farms, a Property Structure Fund with its own legal personality has been established in the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry. This Federal Act provides for granting of functional subventions to settlers as well as for giving a letter of indemnity for bans and credits. In 1970, for the first time the Fund received Federal means.

2. Implementation of measures notified in COM.TD/W/92/Add.5

Owing to the comparatively short time for which the notified laws and measures are in force, no information is available concerning their effects and possible creation of increased import possibilities for developing countries, But the Austrian authorities expect positive results for developing countries by these laws.

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