

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

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ACTION BY GOVERNMENTS RELEVANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF PART IV

In response to GATT/AIR/1393, the countries listed below have transmitted to the secretariat the following information in relation to the implementation of Part IV.

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AUSTRIA

Austria continued to improve the possibilities for developing countries to accede to the Austrian market. The following measures which are additional to those notified in document COM.TD/W/246/Add.1 have been taken with the view to implement Part IV of the General Agreement:

- (1) The third stage of tariff reductions within the Austrian GSP was implemented on 1 July 1977. In relation with the negotiations carried out in the MTN Group "Tropical Products" new tariff preferences have been created or the existing preference margins have been increased for approximately sixty tariff lines. The number of tariff lines included in this third stage is some 100 per cent higher than the number of tariff lines offered initially in the negotiations. At the same time the number of tariff lines for which duty-free treatment is granted has been brought from one third to more than 50 per cent of the total number included in this stage.
- (2) With respect to the importation of hand-made products duty free or at a reduced rate of duty, an agreement has been concluded with Bolivia bringing the total number of countries benefiting from the respective Austrian law to twenty.
- (3) With respect to trade promotion, Austria continued to support the activity of the International Trade Centre through the secondment of officers at the expense of Austrian institutions. The services of the Austrian Trade Delegations in developing countries continued to be available to interested business circles; these services as well as further assistance provided for by Austrian representatives abroad and by the Federal Economic Chamber helped to create preconditions for the establishment of business relations.
- (4) In 1977 Austria continued to provide assistance and training opportunities in the field of customs administration to officials from developing countries through a Special Training Course for Customs Officers for Preventive and/or Investigation Service and a Special Training Course for Senior Customs Officers. Austria offered in total training opportunities to twenty-three officials coming from Egypt, Ethiopia, Gambia, Ghana, Iran, Lesotho, Malawi, Malaysia, Nepal, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Sudan, Thailand, Zambia.
- (5) The secondment of two experts on customs regulations, in particular on rules of origin, to an UNCTAD/UNDP project relating to technical assistance in the field of the Generalized System of Preferences continued in 1977. These experts made their services available to nine countries and within the framework of two regional seminars.

CANADA

Subject to Canadian parliamentary authorization where appropriate, recent developments have been as follows:

1. In its 31 March 1977 budget, the Canadian Government proposed the continuation until 30 June 1978 of most of the temporary MFN tariff reductions which initially had been introduced in the February 1973 budget and extended in subsequent budgets. These reductions had been scheduled to expire on 30 June 1977.
2. In the same budget, effective 1 April, Canada implemented tropical product concessions which included MFN concessions as agreed to in the Tropical Products Group. Also included were improvements in the Canadian generalized scheme of preferences (L/4027/Add.10).
3. Other GSP related measures included the addition to the beneficiaries list (effective 15 November 1976) of the following countries: Angola, Bhutan, Cape Verde Islands, Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique, Nepal, Sao Tome and Principe Somalia, Sudan and Yemen Arab Republic. Portugal, the Portuguese Adjacent Islands and the Portuguese Overseas Territories were added to the beneficiaries list effective 11 August 1977.
4. Colour television receiving sets having an overall diagonal measurement across the picture tube of sixteen inches or more were withdrawn from Canadian GPT treatment effective 5 February 1977 until 31 December 1979 inclusive, and it was decided that the temporary withdrawal of the GPT on rubber footwear be continued until 31 December 1979. Import restrictions imposed on certain clothing items and worsted spun acrylic yarn were extended until 30 June 1978. In addition, bilateral restraint arrangements were entered into with a number of countries under the provisions of the Arrangement Regarding International Trade in Textiles.

FINLAND

As from 1 January 1977, Finland has as a result of the Finnish concessions on tropical products in the Multilateral Trade Negotiations, enlarged the product coverage in her Scheme of Generalized Preferences mainly in chapters 1-24 of the CCCN. The list of these additional products in the Finnish GSP Scheme appears in document L/3694/Add.7. Furthermore, the import equalization tax on agricultural products included in the Finnish GSP Scheme has been abolished on imports from developing countries as from 1 March 1977.

Finland has, jointly with other preference-giving EFTA member countries, stated her intention to introduce cumulative origin provisions in her Scheme of Generalized Preferences in the course of 1978 on the basis of a system common to these countries.

NEW ZEALAND

The last report by New Zealand in the implementation of Part IV, was circulated in document COM.TD/W/246. Since that time further action to liberalize trade in products of export interest to developing countries has been taken by the New Zealand Government in extending the former Pacific Islands Handicraft Scheme to all GSP beneficiary countries. This scheme now provides for duty-free entry for specified handicraft products from all developing countries. In addition, further consideration is being given to the possibilities for the expansion of the product coverage of the scheme. Full details of the scheme and the products covered were communicated to the CONTRACTING PARTIES in Document L/4366/Add.2.

NORWAY

1. The following beneficiary countries have been added to the Norwegian GSP scheme from 1 May 1977: Angola, Cape Verde, Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique, Sao Tome and Principe.
2. An additional twenty-eight items on the withdrawal list for industrial goods under BTN 25-99 are included in the Norwegian GSP scheme for Romania from 1 February 1977.
3. Norway has decided to except certain products from preferential treatment under the Norwegian GSP scheme from 1 September 1977 when originating in the Republic of Korea.
4. Norway has concluded arrangements in the field of textiles and textile articles with some developing countries based on the Multi-Fibre Agreement.

SWEDEN

Review of the implementation of Part IV Notification by Sweden

Reduction or elimination of customs duties on products of export interest to developing countries:

Reduction or elimination of fiscal duties or internal charges on such products

From 1 January 1977, Bangladesh, Barbados and Tonga have been granted preferential treatment in the Swedish GSP system and from 1 July 1977, Macao and Mozambique. The total number of countries thus granted preferential treatment now amounts to seventy-five.

Furthermore, reference could be made to the Swedish offer in Group "Tropical Products", in March 1976 within the framework of the multilateral trade negotiations (MTN). The offer consisting of tariff reductions both on an MFN and a GSP basis entered into force on 1 January 1977.

From 1 January 1978, Sweden intends to introduce certain rules regarding cumulation for groups of countries which have a certain economic co-operation.

Removal of import restrictions applied on such products: where restrictions are not removed any changes in their administration, such as increases in global quotas, changes in quotas applying to different sources of supply; establishment of target dates for liberalization

Reduction or removal of other non-tariff measures of interest to developing countries

Any increases in duties, fiscal charges, quantitative restrictions and other trade barriers affecting the exports of developing countries

The global import quota system for leather shoes and plastic shoes introduced by Sweden in November 1975 was abolished as from 1 July 1977.

Measures falling within the provisions of paragraph 3(b) of Article XXXVII: steps to promote structural changes: steps to introduce measures of trade promotion

Reference can be made to document COM.TD/W/246, dated 20 October 1976.

SWITZERLAND

The augmentation of the list of products covered by the Swiss Scheme of Preferences and the extension of the list of countries beneficiaries of GSP as from 1 January 1977 have already been mentioned in document COM.TD/99.

The development of imports during 1975 and 1976 shows that imports from developing countries covered by the Swiss Scheme of Preferences have increased considerably. Whereas Switzerland's total imports rose from Sw F 34,267 million in 1974 to Sw F 36,871 million in 1976 (plus 7.5 per cent), imports from countries beneficiaries of the Swiss Scheme of Preferences increased from Sw F 3,743 million to Sw F 4,061 million over the same period (plus 8.5 per cent). Imports covered by the Swiss GSP scheme went up by as much as 13.1 per cent (1,403 million in 1975; 1,568 million in 1976) and those affected under the scheme rose from 575 million in 1975 to 642 million in 1976 (plus 11.6 per cent).

In support of efforts to promote trade in products from developing countries, Switzerland invited Nigeria and Thailand to participate as guests of honour in the 1977 Comptoir Suisse at Lausanne.

UGANDA

- (a) Uganda does not discriminate or impose excessive customs or fiscal duties on products of other developing countries. There are no import restrictions or other non-tariff measures either.
- (b) To improve trade between developing countries, Uganda has entered into bilateral trade agreements with several developing countries. To liberalize further her trade with other developing countries, Uganda intends to accede to the Protocol Relating to Trade Negotiations Among Developing Countries.
- (c) When appropriate, further steps will be taken to implement the provisions of Part IV for the benefit of her trade with other developing countries.

UNITED STATES

The following actions have been taken pursuant to Part IV of the GATT in addition to those indicated in COM.TD/W/246 and COM.TD/99 which benefit the trade of developing countries.

Since 1 June 1977, the United States Government examined petitions for the removal of ten items from the coverage of its GSP but none were removed. The United States expects to add several products to GSP in the next few months as a result of product reviews conducted in the summer of 1977. This again demonstrates the United States Government commitment to maintain and improve our GSP.

In the Federal Register of 9 September 1977, the United States published new regulations on its GSP. The regulations provide for procedures which facilitate the submission of requests by the governments of developing countries for the addition of products to the GSP and insure those requests will be given full and careful consideration. The regulations also provide for a single comprehensive annual review of coverage rather than the semi-annual reviews, a change that was requested by several beneficiary countries. The change adds security to the GSP since possible product changes will be considered only once, not twice, a year.

