

# GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

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## ACTION BY GOVERNMENTS RELEVANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF PART IV

### Addendum

The following communication dated 29 October 1979 has been received from the delegation of Austria in connexion with the implementation of Part IV.

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Austria continued its efforts to improve further the access of developing countries to its market. The following measures should be mentioned:

- (1) In the context of the MTN Austria has agreed to substantial tariff reductions on industrial products. As the Austrian Scheme of Generalized Preferences determines that the preferential rates shall be, in general, 50 per cent of the GATT rate (or the autonomous rate, whichever is lower) the tariff reductions agreed to in the Geneva (1979) Protocol will lead to further reductions in the preferential rates. In implementing the Geneva (1979) Protocol each stage of tariff reductions on a most-favoured-nation basis will therefore lower the autonomous preferential tariff rates.
- (2) Austria also agreed to tariff reductions on a number of agricultural products. These products are of particular interest for developing countries (e.g. coffee, maté, spices).
- (3) Recently, two further agreements were concluded for the importation of handicraft products duty free or at reduced rates of duty, namely with Sri Lanka and Peru. Further agreements are in preparation. Up to now such agreements were concluded with thirty-one countries.
- (4) The Federal Ministry for Finance again organized "Special Training Courses for Senior Custom Officers from Developing Countries".

The fifteenth course took place from 3 April to 30 May 1979<sup>1/</sup>, the sixteenth course from 31 July to 25 October 1979. Furthermore, from 3 to 13 July 1979 an intergovernmental seminar on the Generalized System of Preferences was organized in Vienna; it was attended by thirty-three participants from twenty-three developing countries, in particular from least-developed and middle income countries. Austrian experts furthermore participated in seminars within the framework of the UNCTAD/UNDP-project on GSP.

- (5) Austria participates in several international commodity arrangements and is participating in the negotiation of new arrangements, through which the trade relations between industrialized countries and developing countries should be improved.

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<sup>1/</sup>A copy of the report on the fifteenth course is available with the secretariat for consultation by interested contracting parties.