

# GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

COM.TD/W/390/Add.3  
25 October 1983

Limited Distribution

---

Committee on Trade and Development

Original: English

## REVIEW OF THE OPERATION OF THE ENABLING CLAUSE IN ACCORDANCE WITH PARAGRAPH 9 THEREOF

### Comments and Information by Governments

#### Submission by Austria

In response to GATT/AIR/1930 of 14 July 1983 requesting comments and information on the operation of the Enabling Clause as provided for in paragraph 9, and in the context of the first stage of the review called for by the Ministers (paragraph 2 of the Annex to the Ministerial Declaration), the attached information has been transmitted to the secretariat by Austria.

---

Within the framework of the "Enabling Clause" Austria grants differential and more favourable treatment on the basis of the "Customs Preference Act 1982". With effect from 1 January 1983 Austria has implemented the fourth stage of duty reductions under the Geneva (1979) Protocol to the GATT Multilateral Trade Negotiations. The formula for calculating the tariff cut under the Austrian GSP scheme will also be applied to the most-favoured-nation rates thus reduced. As a consequence, preferential duty rates will be reduced accordingly. This improvement of the Austrian GSP scheme results in reduced tariff rates for around 1900 tariff lines.

The Austrian General System of Preferences was circulated as documents L/4108/Add.13 and 15 dated 29 June 1982, 28 January 1983 respectively.

Furthermore, special treatment is granted on handmade products. The last related notification was circulated as document COM.TD/96/Add.6 dated 13 July 1983.