

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

Textiles Surveillance Body

REPORT OF THE SIXTEENTH MEETING (1979)¹

1. The Textiles Surveillance Body held its sixteenth meeting in 1979 on 5 November. The following members, or alternates replacing members, were present during the session:² Messrs. Chau, de Gouvion St. Cyr, Kujirai, Martin, Shepherd and Suarez.
2. At the outset of the meeting the Chairman informed the members that, on 30 October 1979, Guatemala had deposited its instrument of ratification of the Protocol Extending the Arrangement.
3. The draft report of the fifteenth meeting was approved and it has been transmitted to the Textiles Committee in document COM.TEX/SB/480.
4. The Chairman advised the members that he had been informed by the Canadian authorities, pursuant to the TSB's examination of the previous Canadian Article 3:5 actions against India³ and Malaysia⁴, respectively, that negotiations between Canada and the parties in question were continuing and that they would inform the TSB, as requested, of their results.

EEC: Amendments to Article 4 agreements

5. The TSB considered seven notifications of amendments to the initialled Article 4 agreements concluded between the EEC, on the one hand, and each of Argentina, Brazil, the Philippines (two amendments), Poland, Romania, Thailand (two amendments) and Uruguay. The notification with respect to Argentina was made bearing in mind the request by the Textiles Committee that actions taken vis-à-vis non-participants should be notified to the Body. The TSB reviewed these amendments and agreed to transmit the notifications to the Textiles Committee under Article 4:4 of the Arrangement, and under Articles 7 and 8 of the Arrangement in the case of Argentina, see documents COM.TEX/SB/481 to 487.

¹Ninety-fourth meeting overall of the TSB.

²Messrs. El Gowhari and Valdepenas and their alternates were absent.

³See COM.TEX/SB/407, paragraph 4.

⁴See COM.TEX/SB/429, paragraphs 28 to 30, and COM.TEX/SB/457, paragraph 3.

United States: Amendments to Article 4 agreements

6. The TSB also considered nine notifications of amendments to the Article 4 agreements concluded between the United States, on the one hand, and each of Hong Kong, India, Malaysia, Pakistan, the Philippines, Romania (separate amendments with respect to both the cotton textiles and the wool and man-made fibres agreement), Singapore and Thailand. The TSB reviewed these agreements and agreed to transmit the notifications to the Textiles Committee, see documents COM.TEX/SB/488 to 496.

United States/Haiti and United States/Japan

7. The TSB has received two notifications from the United States of new multifibre agreements concluded under Article 4 of the Arrangement between the United States, and each of Haiti and Japan. After its examination of these two agreements, the TSB agreed to transmit the texts of these notifications to the Textiles Committee, see documents COM.TEX/SB/497 and 498.

United States/Sri Lanka

8. The TSB also received a communication from the United States, pursuant to the provisions of Article 8, paragraph 4, of an agreement concluded between the United States and Sri Lanka for the establishment of an export visa system for textile exports to the United States from Sri Lanka. The TSB took note of the fact that the agreement does not contain any restraints or consultation procedures. The TSB agreed to circulate the communication to the Textiles Committee for the information of the participating countries, see COM.TEX/SB/499.

Status of restrictive measures in accordance with Article 11, paragraphs 11 and 12

9. Pursuant to its previous request¹, in accordance with the provisions of paragraphs 11 and 12, of Article 11, the TSB received reports from the following countries: Austria, Brazil, Canada, the EEC, Finland, Haiti, Hong Kong, Hungary, Israel, Japan, Malaysia, Peru, Romania, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Turkey, the United States and Uruguay. In the context of the submission by Brazil, the TSB referred to the conclusions set out in the report of the Balance-of-Payments Committee (BOP/R/103, pages 14 and 15) and the report of the GATT Council (C/M/132, paragraph 3). After its review of the above submissions, the TSB agreed to circulate these notifications to the Textiles Committee for the information of the participating countries, see documents COM.TEX/SB/500 to 517.

¹See COM.TEX/SB/457, paragraph 8.

10. The TSB, after noting that twenty countries had yet to report on the current status of their restrictions, if any, and that thirteen of them had failed to do so last year, had a preliminary exchange of views regarding the requirements of paragraphs 11 and 12, of Article 11 of the Arrangement. The TSB agreed to revert to the substance of this question and the reporting requirements of the participating countries under the aforementioned paragraphs, early in the new year.

11. A report from Sweden, according to the provisions of Article 11, paragraphs 11 and 12, is still under consideration by the TSB.