

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

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Textiles Committee

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STATISTICAL AND OTHER INFORMATION IN CONNEXION WITH THE ARRANGEMENT REGARDING INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN TEXTILES

Note by the Secretariat

The Textiles Committee at its meeting on 26 March decided to set up a Technical Sub-Group to examine the problems relating to the statistical and other documentation required to ensure the effective operation of the Arrangement. It was agreed that the first meeting would be held on 30 April at 3 p.m.

As requested by the Committee, the secretariat has drawn up the following synopsis on textile documentation problems. This is not a complete or exhaustive list of the problems involved. It is intended only to assist the Group by providing a common basis for discussion at its first meeting.

TEXTILE DOCUMENTATION PROBLEMS

Synopsis

A. Product classification

(a) Trade statistics

- (i) Would the SITC revised be an acceptable basis for statistical reporting under the Textiles Arrangement. If so, could it be implemented specifically for textiles and clothing before 1976?
- (ii) If not, would an extension of the product classification under the Long-Term Arrangement on a multifibre basis prove satisfactory in the interim?
- (iii) If the old LTA classification is considered a satisfactory basis, the LTA practice for distinguishing between cotton textiles and other textiles may be inadequate.
- (iv) How should data on imports under a system of temporary importation and on exports for processing and subsequent reimportation be collected?

- (v) National statistics of trade volumes employ differing quantity units. Standard conversion factors have proved unsatisfactory in the past because they become rapidly obsolete and are in general not revised frequently enough. Could the group agree on the use of common quantity units in national statistical reporting?

(b) Production statistics

In many countries, production statistics do not match the detail of trade statistics. Neither do the product categories employed in production statistics match those for trade statistics. Could this problem be minimized by the use of standard product categories?

(c) Other statistics

In addition to trade and production statistics, the Textiles Committee may require other data (e.g., consumption, value added by manufacturing, employment, technical structure etc.). What statistics will be required, and on what basis (regular or ad hoc)?

B. Extent and geographic detail of reporting

- (i) Should all parties to the agreement be required to furnish detailed statistics? Can they?
- (ii) What is the optimum periodicity for each data set?
- (iii) Compromises will have to be achieved on reporting deadlines, depending on the nature of each data set.
- (iv) For which past years shall data be reported?

C. Form of regular reporting

There is a crucial need to eliminate unnecessary ad hoc compilation work. An agreement must be reached on national statistical services reporting to the secretariat on a regular basis. What will this form of reporting be?

D. Statistics required by the IES

- Two kinds:
- I. Those statistics at the level of disaggregation at which commercial policy measures are taken (e.g., trade flows under specific quotas);
 - II. Those statistics describing the state of a specific branch of industry (e.g., shirt-making). (These may not correspond to either I above, or to the industrial branches distinguished in regular statistical reporting.)

These will involve new work for national statistical services. It is therefore necessary to agree on:

- (i) the minimum statistical information required to substantiate a state of market disruption according to the general definition in Annex A; and
- (ii) the minimum methodological description accompanying these data (so that users can assess the reliability of the data).

E. Trade policy reporting to the TSB

What type of information is needed to meet the notification requirements of the parties to the Arrangement?

F. Adjustment reporting to the TSB (and Textiles Committee)

Apart from the regular reports to the Textiles Committee, for its annual analysis, on any measures to facilitate adjustment, importing countries maintaining restrictions should periodically report on the discharge of their adjustment obligations. What form should the reporting take, and what part of such reporting should be obligatory, if any?