

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

L/5097

16 January 1981

Limited Distribution

COMMITTEE ON CUSTOMS VALUATION

Meeting of 13 January 1981

Note by the Chairman

1. The Committee elected Mr. E.-A. Hörig (Federal Republic of Germany) as Chairman and Mr. M. Pullinen (Finland) as Vice-Chairman.
2. The Committee adopted a text, based on the CONTRACTING PARTIES' Decision of 28 November 1979 (L/4905), providing for the participation of observers (see Annex).
3. The Committee noted that the question of accession to the Agreement of countries which are not contracting parties to the GATT could be taken up at a later stage if a particular case presented itself.
4. The Committee agreed on the procedures for circulation and derestriction of its documents.
5. Parties were invited to nominate as soon as possible persons who would be available for serving on panels, in accordance with Annex III of the Agreement.
6. The Committee adopted procedures for reservations made under the Agreement.
7. The Committee heard statements by a number of delegations on steps taken to implement and administer the Agreement. The Committee agreed on the modalities for the notification of national legislation relating to customs valuation which Parties should submit as soon as possible. The Committee also agreed to proceed with an examination of such legislation at a subsequent meeting on the basis of a checklist of issues to be established well in advance of the next meeting.
8. The Committee agreed on points for inclusion in the initial work programme of the Technical Committee on Customs Valuation.
9. The Committee agreed to hold its next meeting in the week of 4 May 1981, the precise date to be established by the Chairman in consultation with the Parties.

ANNEX

Procedures for the Participation of Observers

"Taking into account the decision arrived at by the CONTRACTING PARTIES at their thirty-fifth session on 28 November 1979 (document L/4905), the Committee agrees on the following procedures for the participation of observers:

1. Representatives of contracting parties which are not signatories may follow the proceedings of the Committee in an observer capacity.
2. Representatives of non-signatory countries not contracting parties, which participated in the multilateral trade negotiations and which are interested in following the proceedings of the Committee in an observer capacity, should communicate a request to the Director-General of the GATT indicating their desire to do so. The Committee shall decide on each request.
3. Observers may participate in the discussions but decisions shall be taken only by signatories.
4. The Committee may deliberate on confidential matters in special restricted sessions.
5. The Committee may invite, as appropriate, international organizations to follow particular issues of the Committee in an observer capacity. In addition, requests from international organizations to follow particular issues within the Committee in an observer capacity shall be considered on a case-by-case basis by the Committee.
6. In view of its special responsibilities and functions assigned to it under the Agreement and without constituting a precedent, the Customs Co-operation Council is accorded permanent observer status."