

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

TBT/W/71
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Special Distribution

Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade

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HANDLING OF COMMENTS ON NOTIFICATIONS

Proposal by the Delegation of the United States

The Delegation of the United States proposes that the Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade adopt the following recommendation:

"In order to improve the handling of comments by the Parties to the Agreement on proposed technical regulations and certification systems notified under the Agreement, the Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade recommends that:

A. If commentators send their comments through the enquiry point of the notifying Party, the latter shall provide commentators the following services:

1. Acknowledge receipt of comments, indicating the regulatory agency to which comments have been forwarded;
2. In response to inquiries from other Parties, convey publicly available preliminary responses of the regulatory agency to their comments; and,
3. Provide, upon request, a copy of the final decision by the regulatory agency when it becomes publicly available.

B. Each Party should stand prepared to discuss with other Parties their comments and to take the results of any such discussion into account. In these discussions, each Party should indicate its position with respect to said comments, to the extent possible."