

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

AIR/M/14
7 June 1985

Special Distribution

Agreement on Trade in Civil Aircraft

COMMITTEE ON TRADE IN CIVIL AIRCRAFT

Special Meeting on Adequacy and Effectiveness of the
Agreement and Obstacles to Acceptance which
Contracting Parties may have faced

Minutes of the Special Meeting held in the
Centre William Rappard on 18 April 1985

Chairman: Mr. B. Coté (Canada)

1. The Chairman said that this Special Meeting was held in response to the CONTRACTING PARTIES Decision of 30 November 1984 (L/5756). He recalled that the meeting should provide an opportunity to non-Signatory Contracting Parties to express their views in a general discussion on the adequacy and effectiveness of the Agreement and on the obstacles they may have encountered to its acceptance. Noting that there were no non-Signatories attending the meeting to inform the Committee of the obstacles they may have encountered, he invited comments from Signatories on the adequacy and effectiveness of the Agreement.
2. The representative of Canada said that the fact that Signatories had expanded the coverage of the Agreement and held regular meetings to discuss various issues, clearly showed that the Agreement was effective and doing what it was expected to do.
3. The representative of the EEC said that the Commission shared the view of Canada. Despite the unfortunate absence of non-Signatories at this meeting, he wished to comment on possible obstacles to its acceptance. The EEC was in favour of increasing participation of non-Signatories, particularly in this Agreement. For its part, the Commission was prepared to examine any specific problems encountered by any non-Signatories, but to do so it needed to know what these problems were. If there were obstacles, solutions should be sought on an ad-hoc basis rather than generally, as it was important not to detract from the primary objectives of the Agreement. In the absence of non-Signatories, it was not possible to comment any further.
4. The representative of Japan said that his authorities considered the Agreement to be adequate and effective. Should the Agreement need improvement, there were provisions in Article 8.3 which could be used. His authorities would welcome acceptance of the Agreement by more developing countries, particularly those that were producers of aircraft. If any of these non-signatory producing countries had difficulties in joining the Agreement, his authorities were prepared to try to resolve whatever obstacles were encountered.

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5. The representative of the United States said that, like the Community, the United States was in favour of a larger participation in the Agreement, especially by developing countries producing aircraft or parts. His delegation generally shared the views expressed by the EEC.

6. The representative of Sweden said that his authorities would also welcome the participation of non-Signatories, but as there were no non-Signatories attending the meeting he made this statement for the record.

7. The Chairman concluded the meeting by thanking the Signatories for their statements.