

**PRESS COMMUNIQUÉ**  
**RELEASE DE PRESSE**

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS  
AND TRADE  
ACCORD GÉNÉRAL SUR LES TARIFS  
DOUANIERS ET LE COMMERCE

CENTRE WILLIAM-RAPPARD, 154, RUE DE LAUSANNE, 1211 GENÈVE 21, TÉL. 022 31 02 31

GATT/1377  
29 November 1985

PREPARATORY COMMITTEE ESTABLISHED FOR NEW TRADE ROUND

At their 41st Session, held in Geneva from 25-28 November, the GATT Contracting Parties adopted the following decision:

"The CONTRACTING PARTIES decide that:

1. the Preparatory Committee is established to determine the objectives, subject matter, modalities for and participation in the multilateral trade negotiations, taking into account the elements of the 1982 Ministerial Work Programme and the views expressed in the Group of Senior Officials;
2. the Preparatory Committee is open to any contracting party or country which has acceded provisionally to the GATT;
3. the Preparatory Committee will prepare by mid-July 1986 recommendations for the programme of negotiations for adoption at a Ministerial Meeting to be held in September 1986."

In addition, the following decision was reached on the question of GATT work related to trade in services:

"The CONTRACTING PARTIES,

In pursuance of the 1982 Ministerial Decision on Services, and

In accordance with the Agreed conclusions adopted by the CONTRACTING PARTIES on 30 November 1984,

Decide to invite contracting parties to continue the exchange of information undertaken in pursuance of the Agreed conclusions of 30 November 1984, and to prepare recommendations for consideration by the CONTRACTING PARTIES at their next session."

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The Chairman made the following remarks after the adoption of the decision establishing the Preparatory Committee:

"It has emerged from the debate that the questions of standstill and rollback, treatment of developing countries and safeguards should constitute important issues for the work of the Preparatory Committee."

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The Chairman made the following clarifying statement on the question of participation in the Preparatory Committee:

"It is the Chairman's understanding that countries which are negotiating for accession to GATT may also attend the Committee as observers. Countries which have already formally requested accession will thus be able to attend the first meeting of the Committee."

END