

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

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PROCEDURES FOR FUTURE APPOINTMENT OF THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL

Report by the Chairman of the CONTRACTING PARTIES
approved by the CONTRACTING PARTIES on 26 November 1986

The Council agreed on 15 May 1986 that detailed rules and procedures be examined for the appointment to the office of Director-General in the future and for the renewal of such appointment, that consultations be initiated for this purpose, and that the decision on the new rules and procedures be reached by the November 1986 Session of the CONTRACTING PARTIES (C/M/197).

As envisaged in that decision by the Council, I have carried out a series of consultations with contracting parties, which were much facilitated by draft texts proposed by Brazil.

These consultations have resulted in a consensus on the following statement:

"The Director-General should be appointed by the CONTRACTING PARTIES at a regular Session for a term of office of four years. The CONTRACTING PARTIES may reappoint the Director-General for a further term not exceeding four years. The decision to appoint the Director-General for a first term should be taken after a process of consultation to be conducted by the Chairman of the CONTRACTING PARTIES and to be started by an announcement at a meeting of the Council of Representatives not less than six months before the Session of the CONTRACTING PARTIES where the appointment is made.

"Consultations about the reappointment of the Director-General should be conducted by the Chairman of the CONTRACTING PARTIES after an announcement has been made at a meeting of the Council of Representatives, not less than six months before the termination of the first term of office of the Director-General.

"In the event of a vacancy during the term of office of the Director-General, the Chairman of the CONTRACTING PARTIES should conduct as rapidly as possible consultations on the appointment of a new Director-General. The new Director-General should be appointed by the CONTRACTING PARTIES within six months from the date of the vacancy, if necessary at a special Session convened for this purpose. The Council of Representatives will designate one of the Deputy Directors-General as Acting Director-General until the appointment of a new Director-General."

I wish to underline that I am reporting on the results of my consultations in the form of a statement. This means that there will be a reasonable amount of flexibility in the future application of the procedures forming part of this statement.

In the course of the consultations, procedures for appointment of the Deputy Directors-General were discussed, although this matter was not covered by the Council Decision of 15 May 1986. It was agreed to recommend to the CONTRACTING PARTIES to decide that this question should be pursued by the Council.