

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON

RESTRICTED

TARIFFS AND TRADE

GPR/M/27

14 October 1987

Special Distribution

Committee on Government Procurement

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 30 SEPTEMBER 1987

Chairman: Mr. A. Dell (United Kingdom)

1. The purpose of the meeting was to extend the deadline of 1 October 1987 for the acceptance of the Protocol Amending the Agreement on Government Procurement (ref. GATT/AIR/2473).
2. The Chairman recalled that the following Parties, mentioned in order of acceptance, had accepted the Protocol: Norway, Sweden, Hong Kong, Austria, Finland, Canada, Japan, and Switzerland (ref. GPR/36/- series). The following Parties had not yet accepted the Protocol: the European Economic Community, Israel, Singapore, and the United States. He further recalled that the Protocol stipulated "that the period during which this Protocol may be accepted may, by a decision of the Committee on Government Procurement, be extended beyond this date" (i.e. 1 October 1987).
3. The representatives of Singapore stated that her delegation would be in a position to accept the Protocol on or before 1 October 1987. The representative of United States expected the same.
4. The representative of Israel explained that mainly due to a heavy work load and time-schedule a delay had occurred in the process which required Cabinet decision and prior information to the Knesset. His Government was expected to be in a position to accept the Protocol within a period of six weeks.
5. The representative of the European Economic Community explained that a delay had occurred, mainly for institutional reasons. Her authorities expected to be in a position to accept the Protocol within a month's time.
6. On the Chairman's suggestion, the Committee decided to extend the period during which the Protocol may be accepted until 16 November 1987.
7. The Chairman noted that the Protocol stipulated that it "shall enter into force on the ninetieth day following the date of its acceptance by all Parties to the Agreement, provided that it shall not enter into force before 1 January 1988". It was not within the Committee's powers to change this 90-day requirement. He enquired whether the Committee would consider agreeing that the Parties put the Protocol into force on a de facto basis on 1 January 1988, for the period between 1 January and the date on which this requirement would be met.
8. The representative of the United States stated that his delegation preferred not to establish a date for de facto application as suggested.
9. The Committee did not pursue this idea further.

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10. In response to a question, the Chairman noted that the Protocol would come into force on the ninetieth day following the date of its acceptance by the last Party. If the last acceptance was made on 16 November 1987 the Protocol would enter into force on 13 February 1988.¹ He added that Parties were free to implement the Protocol before it legally came into force.

Other business

11. The Chairman reminded delegations that 30 September 1987 was the agreed date for submitting 1986 statistics. Only Hong Kong, Singapore and the United States had so far reported. He urged other delegations to submit their statistics as soon as possible.

¹The calculation was made by the secretariat after the meeting, as suggested by the Chairman.