GENERAL AGREEMENT ON

TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

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Special Distribution

Textiles Committee
Sub-Committee on Adjustment

INFORMATION RECEIVED BY THE TECHNICAL SUB-GROUP
IN RESPONSE TO THE QUESTIONNAIRES SET OUT IN DOCUMENT
COM. TEX/W/193, DATED 16 MARCH 1987

Additional information

The following information was received in addition to the original submission as contained in COM.TEX/54/Add.2, dated 6 July 1988 from Poland.

POLAND

A. INFORMATION ON PRODUCTION, TRADE AND ADJUSTMENT

1. Production

The share of the textiles industry's output in the overall industrial production of Poland is 5.9 per cent, and that of the clothing industry 2,4 per cent. Compared to the combined 6.2 per cent share in 1985, this share is decreasing. Production of the textiles industry in 1986 increased by 0.8 per cent in real terms compared to 1985, while this ratio was 5.4 per cent in the case of the clothing industry.

As far as employment is concerned, 11.1 per cent of the overall industrial labour force is employed in the textile industry (105,000 in 1986) while the respective figures were 194,400 and 192,900 in the clothing industry.

2. The production pattern

The production pattern has not substantially changed during the period under consideration. In the production of textile piece goods the range of products has increased. The scope of the leisure-time clothing products has widened. Within the ready-to-wear products the production has followed the actual fashion trends. The capacities for manufacturing traditional suits have been turned partly to producing leisure-time clothing. Usually the small series which are required by the markets are not supporting the necessary increase in the productivity of the industry.

Developments and investments have been concentrated mostly in the spinning and complementary lines i.e. the finishing, knitting and special sewing processes.

The scarcity of resources within the industry has caused an unfavourable situation. The industry tried to compensate for this tendency by increasing its participation in outward processing arrangements.

3. The organizational background: further decentralization

The process of further decentralization of production has continued in the period under consideration. Certain larger enterprises have been decentralized. No new factories have been established, nor have any enterprises closed down during this period.

4. Developments in outward processing

In the field of technological co-operation and outward processing arrangements, the Polish and foreign enterprises have traditionally had

good contacts. Such favourable relations were established with Federal Republic of Germany, United States, Canada, French and British firms, which, under outward processing arrangements, require the production of ready-to-wear products. There is also an important co-operation with Italian textiles machinery industry.

5. Industry-funded programmes for education and training

There are no special industry-funded programmes for education and training. The formation of a qualified labour force takes place in specialized professional secondary schools. The higher education in this field is mostly served by the Textile Faculty of Polytechnical School in Eodz. The Textile Faculty and Textile Industry Institute are an important scientific basis for the elaboration of new technologies and know-hows. The scientific-technological research is financed partly by the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Technical Development and partly by the industries' companies.

6. The importance of the domestic market: the rôle of the domestic production in the consumption

The domestic market has a great importance for the Polish textile and clothing industries. The share of Polish products in the domestic consumption is around 80-90 per cent. As to the structure of the domestic consumption, the share of ready-to-wear articles and knitted products has increased while that of the textile piece goods has decreased.

One third of imports in convertible currencies originates in developing countries, while two-thirds arrive from developed market economy countries. Domestic consumption is largely diversified, special requirements are also met by the industry and trade.

7. To what extent and in what manner are the textiles and clothing industries adapting themselves to the international tendencies?

The adaptation of the industries is mostly manifested in the appropriate change in their production pattern. Most enterprises in these industries have diversified their production and have tried to keep pace with fashion tendencies.

B. GOVERNMENT MEASURES

No special measures are aimed at the textile and clothing industries to promote their adjustment process. In general, the structural adjustment scheme - which was introduced in the whole industrial sector in 1986 - could also be used by textiles and clothing enterprises. In this scheme, investments which can produce modern, marketable goods as the final result of the development may be granted certain accumulation tax reduction and some preferential credit lines. This scheme is applied to the industry as a whole, and is not specific to the textile and clothing industries. Some

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enterprises of the textile and clothing sector have participated in the scheme.

C. ACCESS TO MARKETS

The market access possibilities of the Polish textiles and clothing products have not substantially changed in 1985 and 1986 as compared to the preceding period: the overwhelming majority of Polish exports fell under restrictions.

1/ Textiles production with value of knitting.

^{2/} Imports and exports in US dollars. 3/ Value added in textiles with knitting.

Investment in the textile industry with knitting. 26

Productivity in the textile industry with knitting.

Profitability in the textile industry with knitting.