

# GENERAL AGREEMENT ON

# TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

TBT/Notif.90.234

15 August 1990

Special Distribution

Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade

## NOTIFICATION

The following notification is being circulated in accordance with Article 10.4.

1. Party to Agreement notifying: <u>EUROPEAN COMMUNITY</u>
2. Agency responsible: Commission of the European Community
3. Notified under Article 2.5.2 [X], 2.6.1 [], 7.3.2 [], 7.4.1 [], Other:
4. Products covered (HS or CCCN where applicable, otherwise national tariff heading): All products placed on the market.
5. Title: Amended Proposal for a Council Directive Concerning General Product Safety (7 and 7 pages)
6. Description of content:  Introduction of general requirement for economic operators to place on the market only safe products, with specific requirements concerning information on acceptable risks and monitoring of the safety of products placed on the market.  Obligations for Member States to establish means and powers to ensure that only safe products are placed on the market:  - Establishment of procedures for notification of measures taken by Member States to restrict the marketing of a product, rapid exchange of information, including communication of measures envisaged, in emergency situations, and likewise decision-making at Community level in emergency situations.
7. Objective and rationale: Improvement of safety of products marketed in the Community:  - This proposal has firstly a <u>harmonizing objective</u> , to the extent that various Community countries have adopted legislations of the same kind.  - On the one hand, it meets the need to establish basic principles governing the safety of all products, to be applied in a subsidiary manner vis-à-vis specific Community instruments stipulating a general safety requirement for the products to which they relate.

7. Objective and rationale: (cont'd)

- On the other hand, it is designed to supplement the provisions laid down by those instruments in a horizontal manner as regards the aspects not covered by those specific texts: progress in harmonizing the objections, means and powers of Member States regarding market supervision and intervention, development of an efficient procedure for information and intervention at Community level, in specific emergency situations where dangerous products are on the market.

In brief, this is an essential corollary to the improved movement of goods which will result from achievement of the internal market that will itself contribute to expand this intra-Community trade.

8. Relevant documents:

Official Journal C 193 of 31 July 1989, pages 1-7  
Official Journal C 156 of 27 June 1990, pages 8-14

9. Proposed dates of adoption and entry into force: Adoption: in first half of 1991

10. Final date for comments: 1 October 1990

11. Texts available from: National enquiry point [X] or address of other body:

D.G. III.A.1