

# GENERAL AGREEMENT ON

RESTRICTED

TAR/M/32

28 August 1991

## TARIFFS AND TRADE

Limited Distribution

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### Committee on Tariff Concessions

#### MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 31 JULY 1991

Chairman: Mr. Alejandro de la Peña (Mexico)

1. Adoption of the agenda
2. Approval by the Committee of the Procedures to be followed to implement changes in the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System (Harmonized System) affecting GATT Schedules
3. Other business
4. Date of next meeting

#### 1. Adoption of the Agenda

1.1 The Chairman welcomed the participants to the meeting of the Committee convened by GATT/AIR/3219 dated 19 July 1991, which contained the agenda for the meeting. The representative of Colombia indicated his wish to inform the Committee under the agenda item "Other business" of the developments concerning the transposition of Colombia's schedule of tariff concessions. The representative of Malaysia, under the same agenda item, also informed the Committee about the status of its Article XXVIII negotiations. The agenda was adopted.

#### 2. Procedures to be followed to implement changes in the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System affecting GATT Schedules

2.1 The Chairman recalled that at the informal meeting of 18 June 1991 the Committee had requested the secretariat to prepare a note on the type of procedures to be followed by contracting parties with respect to the changes that would be introduced to the Harmonized System on 1 January 1992 and to any future changes.

2.2 He pointed out that the draft procedures had been elaborated along the lines of the procedures that had been established for the adoption of the Harmonized System and the transposition of schedules. He recalled that a preliminary note had been circulated and discussed at an informal meeting on 10 July 1991. The secretariat had prepared a revised version of this note (document TAR/W/83) based on the comments made during the meeting. He stated that the procedures described in the document had been submitted to the Committee for approval and would be forwarded to the Council for its adoption at its meeting of 8-9 October 1991. He suggested that in view of

the limited time available to introduce and notify the changes, the procedures should, if approved, be applied immediately; delegations should not wait for the formal adoption by the Council to submit the relevant documentation.

2.3 Following the discussion the Committee approved and adopted, with a few amendments, the document. The revised procedures have been circulated in document TAR/W/83/Rev.1 dated 7 August 1991. The Committee also agreed that, with respect to the changes to be applied on 1 January 1992, notifications should preferably reach the secretariat before 15 September 1991.

### 3. Other Business

3.1 The representative of Colombia informed the Committee of the progress made with regard to the transposition of the Colombian schedule of tariff concessions. He stated that the technical work was almost finished and that it remained only for the Customs Policy Council to approve the work. He said that the Committee would be notified once such an approval had been obtained.

3.2 In response to a question from the representative of the European Communities, the representative of Colombia stated that it would be difficult for his authorities to take into account in Colombia's revised schedule of concessions the amendments of the Harmonized System which would come into effect on 1 January 1992. While the Committee had approved and adopted the procedures to be followed with respect to those changes, the contracting parties had yet to do so, and until such a time his Government would follow the existing procedures.

3.3 The representative of Malaysia recalled that at the last meeting of the Committee, the Chairman had asked countries that had requested a waiver so as to carry out Article XXVIII negotiations subsequently, to accelerate this process. He wished to inform the Committee on the progress made by his country with respect to those negotiations. His country's schedule had been revised in light of the consultations undertaken with certain interested participants. His authorities had hoped to submit the final documentation in the very near future but the domestic process had delayed its submission. Nevertheless, it was his hope that the relevant documents would be ready shortly.

### 4. Date of next meeting

4.1 The Chairman stated that the next formal meeting would be held in the autumn and that the exact date would be established in consultation with members of the Committee.