

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON

RESTRICTED

L/7107

3 November 1992

TARIFFS AND TRADE

Limited Distribution

REPORT (1992) OF THE COMMITTEE ON TECHNICAL BARRIERS TO TRADE

1. This report, submitted under Article 15.8 of the Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade, sets out developments in the implementation and operation of the Agreement since the Committee's last report on 11 November 1991 (L/6935).
2. The Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade entered into force on 1 January 1980. As of 25 September 1992, thirty-eight signatories have accepted the Agreement under Article 15.1 (Australia accepted the Agreement on 1 March 1992), two have accepted it subject to ratification, and one has accepted it under Article 15.2. There are twenty-four observers (Russian Federation was granted observer status on 17 June 1992). In addition, seven international organizations are invited to attend meetings of the Committee in an observer capacity.
3. The Committee held its forty-third and forty-fourth meetings on 28 April (TBT/M/42) and 19 October (TBT/M/43), respectively. At those meetings, the Committee heard statements on the implementation and administration of the Agreement.
4. At its forty-fourth meeting, the Committee carried out its thirteenth annual review of the implementation and operation of the Agreement under Article 15.8, based on background documentation contained in TBT/34.
5. The Committee has adopted the following decision:

"In conformity with Article 2.5 of the Agreement, Parties are obliged to notify all mandatory labelling requirements that are not based substantially on a relevant international standard and that may have a significant effect on the trade of other Parties. That obligation is not dependent upon the kind of information which is provided on the label, whether it is itself in the nature of a technical specification or not."
6. A meeting on Enquiry Points and Procedures for Information Exchange was held on 2 November 1992.