

**GENERAL AGREEMENT
ON TARIFFS AND TRADE**

RESTRICTED
L/7317
2 November 1993
Limited Distribution

(93-1852)

ACCESSION TO THE GENERAL AGREEMENT

Complementary procedures to be followed in the organization and pursuit of negotiations

At its meeting on 27 October 1993, the Council agreed that the procedures indicated below should henceforth be followed in the organization and pursuit of negotiations on accession to the General Agreement, without prejudice to procedures currently applied.

1. Upon reception of a formal request for accession to the General Agreement and its approval by the Council or by the CONTRACTING PARTIES, the Secretariat will address a communication to the acceding government in which it will outline the normal procedures followed by working parties on accession, and request that the acceding government submit a Memorandum on its Foreign Trade Régime that covers but is not limited to the topics of the outline contained in the Annex. This outline may be revised and amended as necessary in future, in the light of experience and of the results of the Uruguay Round.
2. It would be understood that the Secretariat will continue to make available to the government of the acceding country the necessary technical assistance facilities.
3. It would also be understood that in the course of its deliberations, the working party may request the Secretariat to prepare background documentation on specific issues or questions regarding the acceding government's trade policies which have arisen in the course of the examination by the working party.

ANNEX

Outline Format for a Memorandum on the Foreign Trade Régime¹

- I. Introduction (brief description of the goals of the economic policy)
- II. Economy and foreign trade
 1. Economy:
 - (a) general description (territory, population, economic specialization, main economic indicators);
 - (b) main directions of the ongoing economic policies, tactical and strategical goals of the economic policies including information on pricing policy, economic development plans, privatization plans etc.;
 - (c) current economic situation;
 - (d) the division of authority between central and sub-central governments.
 2. Foreign Trade: foreign trade balance, volume of trade, exports and imports, structure of trade, trade by geographic areas and dynamics of trade.
- III. Foreign trade regime
 1. Import regulation:
 - (a) the evolution of the customs tariff regulation;
 - (b) customs tariff nomenclature, types of duties, general description of the customs tariff structure, weighted average level of duties on main customs tariff groupings;
 - (c) import charges and fees;
 - (d) taxation régime;
 - (e) tariff preferences;
 - (f) non-tariff measures, quotas and licensing system;
 - (g) customs valuation;
 - (h) rules of origin;
 - (i) customs formalities;
 - (j) standards and certification;
 - (k) sanitary and phytosanitary measures.

¹This outline may be revised and amended as necessary in future, in the light of experience and of the results of the Uruguay Round.

2. Export regulations:

- (a) customs tariff nomenclature, types of duties, customs tariff structure, weighted average level of duties on main customs tariff groupings;
- (b) export licensing system;
- (c) other measures.

3. Export incentives, including subsidies.

4. Regulations of trade in transit.

IV. Other policies affecting foreign trade

- (1) industrial policy;
- (2) agricultural policy;
- (3) financial, budgetary and fiscal policy;
- (4) foreign exchange and payments system, relations with International Monetary Fund, and application of foreign exchange controls;
- (5) foreign and domestic investment policy;
- (6) government procurement;
- (7) state trading enterprises;
- (8) free trade zones;
- (9) subsidy policy;
- (10) free economic zones;
- (11) preferential trade arrangements or other special trade arrangements and agreements.

V. Institutional base for trade and economic relations with third countries

- (1) brief description of the bilateral trade and economic agreements and integration agreements;
- (2) multilateral economic cooperation, membership in the multilateral economic organizations.

VI. Laws and legal acts²

- (1) laws and legal acts regulating the activity of the customs authorities; responsible agencies;
- (2) laws and legal acts relating to non-tariff regulation of imports, exports and trade in transit, rules of origin; responsible agencies;
- (3) laws and regulations relating to foreign investment; responsible agencies;
- (4) other laws and legal acts dealing with economic issues that affect trade; responsible agencies.

²The full legal texts will be reproduced in Annex 2.

VII. Statistics and publications³

- (1) foreign trade statistics, responsible agencies;
- (2) publications related to statistics.

Annex 1. List of trade agreements with third countries.

Annex 2. Laws and regulations.

Annex 3. Statistical data:

- (a) main economic indicators:
 - GNP;
 - GNP per capita;
 - budget;
 - production and consumption of the basic goods;
 - annual changes in prices;
 - employment in different industrial sectors;
 - level of unemployment;
 - balance of payments;
 - foreign exchange.
- (b) foreign trade statistics:
 - foreign trade (aggregates);
 - export statistics;
 - import statistics;
 - tariff line level with main suppliers;
 - trade by geographic areas (main trade partners).

³The documentation and data enumerated below is without prejudice to contracting parties' rights to request additional data and documentation which they may deem necessary in the course of the accession process.