

**GENERAL AGREEMENT
ON TARIFFS AND TRADE**

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(93-2035)

Committee on Import Licensing

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 19 OCTOBER 1993

Chairman: Mr. S. Soto Nuñez

1. The Committee on Import Licensing held its thirty-third meeting on 19 October 1993.
2. Before beginning the order of business contained in the agenda, the **Chairman** drew attention to a decision reached by the GATT Council at its meeting of 16-17 June 1993 concerning the status of Yugoslavia and proposed that the Committee agree to apply this Decision which reads as follows:

"The Council considers that the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) cannot continue automatically the contracting party status of the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia in the GATT, and therefore decides that the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) should apply for accession to the GATT and that it shall not participate in the work of the Council and its subsidiary bodies. The Council further invites other committees and subsidiary bodies of the GATT, including the Committees of the Tokyo Round Agreements and the Committee on Trade and Development, to take the necessary decisions in accordance with the above."

The Committee so **agreed**.

3. The agenda contained in GATT/AIR/3497 was adopted.

A. Status of Signatories and Observers

Request by Chinese Taipei for Observer Status

4. The **Chairman** drew attention to a request for observer status from Chinese Taipei, which had been circulated in document LIC/W/67. The request stated that as Chinese Taipei was in the process of negotiating its accession to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, it believed it was very important to follow closely the activities of the GATT standing bodies as well as all the Committees established under certain MTN Codes and Arrangements. In this context, the Committee **noted** that the GATT Council at its meeting of 29 September 1992 had invited Chinese Taipei, following its request for accession to GATT, "to attend future meetings of the Council and of other GATT bodies as an observer during the period when the Working Party was carrying out its work".

5. The Committee **agreed** to grant observer status to Chinese Taipei, and it **recalled** that it had agreed, at its meeting of 29 April 1980 regarding the participation of observers, that "Observers may participate in the discussions but decisions shall be taken only by Signatories", and that "the Committee may deliberate on confidential matters in special restricted sessions".

6. The **Chairman**, welcoming the representative of Chinese Taipei as an observer to the Committee on Import Licensing, said that the Committee appreciated the interest shown by the Government of Chinese Taipei in becoming acquainted with the work of the Committee in an observer capacity and

understood the importance of this request in view of Chinese Taipei's accession negotiations to the GATT. The Committee encouraged Chinese Taipei to provide it, from time to time, with reports on any matters covered by this Agreement.

Status of acceptance of the Agreement

7. The **Chairman** drew attention to documents LIC/20 and LIC/21 concerning the acceptance of the Agreement by the **Czech Republic** and the **Slovak Republic**, respectively. He informed the Committee that since no party had indicated that it could not accept the accelerated procedure which had been applied, the Agreement on Import Licensing Procedures had entered into force for the two Republics on 1 May 1993. He welcomed the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic as members of the Import Licensing Committee.

B. Information Available on Import Licensing Procedures

8. The **Chairman** reported that since the last meeting revised or corrected replies to the **GATT Questionnaire on Import Licensing Procedures** had been received from **Australia** (L/5640/Add.13/Rev.7), **Austria** (L/5640/Add.35/Rev.1/Corr.1 and 2), **Bolivia** (L/5640/Add.51), **Finland** (L/5640/Add.6/Rev.2/Suppl.2), **Hong Kong** (L/5640/Add.36/Rev.7), **New Zealand** (L/5640/Add.18/Rev.3), **Norway** (L/5640/Add.2/Rev.4), **Philippines** (L/5640/Add.26/Rev.4), **Romania** (L/5640/Add.32/Rev.2) and **South Africa** (L/5640/Add.17/Rev.4/Suppl.1). Additional replies received from **Bolivia**, **Canada**, **Finland** and **Switzerland** would be circulated as L/5640/Add.51/Corr.1, Add.10/Rev.5, Add.6/Rev.3 and Add.19/Rev.1/Suppl.3, respectively. **Information on implementation and administration of the Agreement** had been received from **Romania** and **Finland** (LIC/1/Add.54 and Add.55). **Publications** containing information on import licensing procedures had been received from **Bolivia** and **Romania** (LIC/3/Add.38). In addition, a copy of **Hong Kong's** Guide to Import and Export Licensing Requirements, referred to in Hong Kong's replies to the Questionnaire was available for consultation in the Secretariat.

9. The representatives of **Poland**, **Sweden** and the **United States** informed the Committee that updated information on import licensing procedures would soon be submitted to the Secretariat.

10. The Committee **took note** of the information provided.

C. Seventh Biennial Review of the Implementation and Operation of the Agreement

11. The Committee conducted the seventh biennial review under Article 5.5 of the Agreement on the basis of document LIC/22.

12. The representative of **Argentina** said that the information contained in the basic document concerning his country, in particular on non-automatic licensing, was not up-to-date and that he would submit shortly updated information on the measures currently in force to replace the information given in LIC/22. Argentina's full replies to the Questionnaire on Import Licensing Procedures would also be communicated at the same time. The Committee **took note** of the statement.

13. It was **agreed** that a revision of LIC/22 would be issued incorporating information received since the basic document was prepared (LIC/22/Rev.1).

D. Report (1993) to the CONTRACTING PARTIES

14. The Committee agreed on the text of its Report (1993) to the CONTRACTING PARTIES (L/7313).

E. Other Business

15. The Committee agreed that the Secretariat should make arrangements for the next meeting of the Committee in consultation with the Chairman.