

**GENERAL AGREEMENT
ON TARIFFS AND TRADE**

SR.49/ST/13
18 February 1994
Limited Distribution

(94-0308)

CONTRACTING PARTIES
Forty-Ninth Session

Original: English

AUSTRIA

Statement by Mr. Gerhard Waas
Director-General, Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs

This room has seen - on 15 December last year - one of the most triumphant and joyful scenes I can recall in my long-standing experience in GATT. Now we are back in a more serene setting, deliberating - in essence - how the work of the "old GATT" should be wound up appropriately to make our hands free for the preparations of the World Trade Organization and to enable us to enter this body with a clean slate.

It may therefore be useful to recall just some of the more important outstanding issues:

1. Accession of as many States as possible to GATT under satisfactory conditions and arrangements;
2. Early implementation of panel reports;
3. Continuing delays in the appointment of the Executive Director of the International Trade Centre;
4. Abuse of legitimate trade instruments for purposes of protectionism;
5. Termination of waivers from basic obligations concerning the establishment of tariff schedules.

Now, let me refer to some aspects of the follow-up to the decision of 15 December last year.

The successful conclusion of the Uruguay Round is of highest importance - also politically - for the strengthening of the open multilateral trading system. The results of the Round are a decisive element for the recovery of the world economy in stimulating growth, and contributing to the solution of the global employment crisis. The reinforcement of the multilateral trading system is an important encouragement for the reform countries and for the countries in transition on their way to market economy. It will enable developing countries to maintain and continue their courageous liberalization measures taken over the last few years.

Let me turn now to an issue of paramount importance to my government:

The examination of the relationship between Trade and Environment has become an ongoing feature of our work in GATT. Given the fact that other fora as well are pursuing this important subject, co-operation between these different bodies should be intensified.

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We are convinced that the Group on Environmental Measures and International Trade has provided a valuable contribution to ensuring a better understanding of interrelationships, and we look forward to further results.

Environmental protection and free trade should not be isolated objectives of the international trading community. They should rather be seen as mutually supportive: securing a safer, healthier, more satisfying and richer quality of life. The multilateral trading system should provide carefully balanced measures that contribute to the protection of the environment and sustainable development without indulging in protectionism.

In conclusion, I would like to refer briefly to the report of the Committee on Trade in Civil Aircraft as contained in document L/7322.

The Austrian delegation appreciates the difficult work done by the Committee on Civil Aircraft, its Chairman and of the Secretariat staff serving this Committee. Permit me, however, to draw your attention to a technical matter where some action is necessary. The Annex to the Civil Aircraft Code is based on the Nomenclature of the Harmonized System. As you certainly are aware, the Harmonized System has undergone certain changes on 1 January 1992. These changes still need to be reflected in the Annex, in order to avoid any misunderstandings as to product coverage. There are not many changes to be done in both official languages of the text of the Annex. My delegation has already provided the Secretariat with a list indicating these changes. It would be very much appreciated if the Committee would soon agree on the consequential changes necessary in the Annex in both the English and French languages. These minor changes could be regarded as a sort of house-keeping matter; but we should bear in mind that the Harmonized System will undergo more substantive changes on 1 January 1996. Properly reflecting the 1992 changes in the Annex to the Civil Aircraft Code would be a good preparation for the work to be done in a few years.