

**GENERAL AGREEMENT
ON TARIFFS AND TRADE**

RESTRICTED
C/RM/27
2 September 1994
Limited Distribution

(94-1804)

COUNCIL

TRADE POLICY REVIEW MECHANISM

Macau and Hong Kong

Arrangements for Review Meetings

Communication from the Chairman of the Council

1. In pursuance of the CONTRACTING PARTIES' Decision of 12 April 1989 concerning the Trade Policy Review Mechanism¹, special Council meetings are scheduled for 27-28 September and 5-6 October 1994 to conduct the reviews of the trade policies and practices of Macau and Hong Kong (second review) (GATT/AIR/3622). This communication sets out arrangements concerning the review meetings. In this connection, attention is also drawn to the note on procedures circulated on 30 April 1993.²

(i) Questions in writing in advance of the meeting

2. Contracting parties may give advance notice in writing of the points they wish to be raised at the review meeting. This will not limit in any way the scope of discussions at special Council meetings.³ It would be appreciated if any such points could be in the hands of the Secretariat by Tuesday, 20 September for Macau; and Wednesday, 28 September for Hong Kong. These will be made available to the Council at the beginning of the relevant meeting.

(ii) Discussants

3. The Decision establishing the Trade Policy Review Mechanism provides that, in consultation with the contracting party or parties under review, the Chairman of the Council may choose discussants who, in their personal capacity, will introduce the discussions in the review body.

4. Following such consultations, Mr. Wilhelm Meier and Mr. Suboh M. Yassin will act as discussants for Macau; and H.E. Mr. Juan Carlos Sanchez Arnau and H.E. Mr. Wade Armstrong

¹BISD 36S/403.

²L/7208.

³C/M/236.

for Hong Kong. Documents summarizing the main points to be raised by the discussants will be circulated in advance of the meetings.

(iii) Structure of the meetings

5. Trade policy reviews undertaken at special Council meetings cover four broad headings:
- (a) appreciation of the full range of the contracting party's trade policies and practices;
 - (b) relevant background: wider economic and developmental needs and the external environment;
 - (c) impact of the contracting party's trade policies and practices on the functioning of the multilateral trading system; and
 - (d) general comments by way of assessment and evaluation.⁴

As noted in L/7208, the discussion on the second morning will be based on a number of main themes identified by the Chairman, discussants and Secretariat with the country under review after the opening meeting.

(iv) Documentation and press arrangements

6. The reports submitted by the countries under review and the Secretariat are contained in the following documents:

C/RM/G/48	Report by the Government of Macau
C/RM/S/48	Macau: Report by the Secretariat
C/RM/G/49 & Add.1	Report by the Government of Hong Kong
C/RM/S/49	Hong Kong: Report by the Secretariat

7. The press embargoes for the reviews of Macau and Hong Kong will end at 13.00 gmt (2 p.m. Geneva time) on Wednesday, 28 September; and Thursday 6 October, respectively.

(v) Minutes

8. Minutes of the meetings, drawn up by the Secretariat, will be circulated promptly after the meetings. They will subsequently be published together with the reports by the Governments and by the Secretariat.

(vi) Answers in writing by the contracting parties under review after the special Council meetings

9. In the course of the discussions at the review meetings, the contracting parties under review may indicate that they intend to provide supplementary information in writing on specific points raised during the sessions. Upon receipt, the Secretariat will circulate this information to all contracting parties. Such information will not be reflected in the minutes of the meetings.

⁴C/W/607.