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**PREPARATORY COMMITTEE FOR THE WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION**

SUB-COMMITTEE ON INSTITUTIONAL, PROCEDURAL AND LEGAL MATTERS

# NOTIFICATIONS UNDER THE WTO AGREEMENT ON TECHNICAL BARRIERS TO TRADE

## Communication from the Chairman of the Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade

The following communication, dated 8 November 1994 and addressed to the Chairman of the Sub-Committee, has been received from the Chairman of the Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade.

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I have the pleasure of forwarding to you a number of recommendations agreed by the Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade at its meeting of 28 October 1994 aimed at ensuring that adequate procedures will be in place to allow notifications to be made and processed during the period between entry into force of the WTO Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade and the first meeting of hte WTO Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade. I would like to request you to bring the attention of the Sub-Committee on Institutional, Procedural and Legal Matters to those recommendations on the notification procedures and, pending the first meeting of the WTO Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade, invite the Sub-Committee to endorse them and to instruct the Secretariat to undertake the work that will be necessary to implement them.

The recommendations are as follows:

(i) Notifications made under the obligations of the Tokyo Round Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade shall continue to be made and processed in accordance with the existing procedures.

(ii) In cases where the final date for comments of a notification made and distributed under the Tokyo Round Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade by a Party to the Agreement which has become a WTO Member falls after the date of entry into force of the WTO Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade, the notification shall be distributed without modification by the WTO Secretariat to Members of the WTO Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade who have not already received the notification as a signatory of the Tokyo Round Agreement.

(iii) Notifications made under the obligations of the WTO Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade should, from the date of entry into force of the Agreement for the Members concerned:

- be made using a new notification from (copy attached);
- be submitted to the WTO Secretariat.

WTO Members shall follow the recommendations and guidelines relating to notification procedures contained in TBT/16/Rev.7.

The notifications shall be processed expeditiously by the Secretariat and distributed to other Members of the WTO Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade.

(iv) In accordance with the recommendations and guidelines contained in TBT/16/Rev.7:

(a) Members of the WTO Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade shall inform the WTO Secretariat as soon as possible of the address to which they wish notifications sent. Pending receipt of this information, the WTO Secretariat shall distribute notifications to the addresses of the delegations of the Members of the WTO Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade.

(b) Members of the WTO Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade shall inform other Members, via the WTO Secretariat, as soon as possible of the names, addresses, telephone and telefax numbers of their Enquiry Points to whom enquiries regarding notifications may be addressed and of the appropriate authority to whom requests for consultation may be addressed, as necessary. Pending receipt of this information, enquiries and requests for consultation may be addressed to the delegations of the Members of the Agreement who shall ensure they are transmitted expeditiously to the appropriate authority.

(v) The Director-General of the WTO is invited to enter expeditiously into an agreement with the ISO Central Secretariat to establish a WTO Standards Information Service operated by ISO.