

**GENERAL AGREEMENT  
ON TARIFFS AND TRADE**

**RESTRICTED**  
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**REPORT (1994) OF THE COMMITTEE ON TECHNICAL BARRIERS TO TRADE**

1. This report, submitted under Article 15.8 of the Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade, sets out developments in the implementation and operation of the Agreement since the Committee's last report on 9 November 1993 (L/7294).
2. The Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade entered into force on 1 January 1980. As of 8 November 1994, forty-four signatories have accepted the Agreement under Article 15.1<sup>1</sup>, two have accepted it subject to ratification. This figure reflects the fact that during the period under review, the Agreement was accepted by Slovenia on 7 November 1994. There are twenty-three observers. In addition, seven international organizations are invited to attend meetings of the Committee in an observer capacity.
3. The Committee held its forty-seventh and forty-eighth meetings on 4 May (TBT/M/46) and 28 October (TBT/M/47) respectively. At those meetings, the Committee heard statements on the implementation and administration of the Agreement.
4. At its forty-eighth meeting, the Committee carried out its fifteenth annual review of the implementation and operation of the Agreement under Article 15.8, based on background documentation contained in TBT/38/Rev.1.
5. Discussions at the TBT Committee's meetings in 1994 indicated that there is a general understanding among signatories of the TBT Agreement that mandatory marking requirements applied in the context of marking the origin of products are covered by the provisions of the Agreement, but one signatory could not join a consensus on this issue and continues to question the applicability of the provisions of the Agreement to marks-of-origin requirements. These discussions have suggested that there may be value in clarifying the coverage of the provisions of the TBT Agreement with respect to mandatory marking requirements applied in the context of marking the origin of products.
6. The Committee endorsed a number of recommendations aimed at ensuring that adequate procedures will be in place to allow notifications to be made and processed efficiently during the period between entry into force of the WTO TBT Agreement and the first meeting of the WTO TBT Committee. These recommendations were transmitted to the Chairman of the Sub-Committee on Institutional, Procedural and Legal Matters with a suggestion that the Chairman of that Sub-Committee invite the Sub-Committee to endorse them and to transmit them to the Preparatory Committee and invite the Preparatory Committee to instruct the Secretariat, pending the first meeting of the WTO TBT Committee, to undertake the work that will be necessary to implement them (PC/IPL/W/13).

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<sup>1</sup>This does not include the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.