

**GENERAL AGREEMENT ON  
TARIFFS AND TRADE**

**GATT**  
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21 JULY 1960  
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1960-61 Tariff Conference

TARIFF NEGOTIATIONS COMMITTEE

Provisional Agenda

I. Establishment of the Tariff Negotiations Committee

At the sixteenth session the CONTRACTING PARTIES agreed (SR.16/6), on the basis of proposals submitted by the Chairman (Spec(60)133) to set up the Tariff Negotiations Committee provided for in the Rules and Procedures for the Tariff Conference and with the functions, terms of reference and composition laid down in these Rules.

II. Matters referred by the CONTRACTING PARTIES

The CONTRACTING PARTIES at the same time specifically decided to leave to the Tariff Negotiations Committee the following matters:

(a) Polish Proposal to Negotiate at Tariff Conference

At the fifteenth session it was agreed that contracting parties willing to take advantage of Poland's offer -- submitted to the CONTRACTING PARTIES at that session (I/1049) -- to negotiate minimum import commitments against tariff concessions should consult directly with the Government of Poland. At the sixteenth session the representative of Poland informed the CONTRACTING PARTIES that his Government maintained this offer and that consultations concerning such negotiations had been held with a number of contracting parties. The CONTRACTING PARTIES agreed that any technical problems which might arise in connexion with these negotiations should be referred to the Tariff Negotiations Committee which would report to the CONTRACTING PARTIES at the seventeenth session any appropriate proposals or recommendations.

(b) Timing of the Examination of EEC Common Tariff under Article XXIV:5(a)

Committee I on Expansion of Trade reporting to the fifteenth session (BISD, Eighth Supplement, page 111, paragraph 17) considered that the CONTRACTING PARTIES might at the sixteenth session be in the best position to decide by which body and in what way a joint examination

of the European Economic Community common tariff under Article XXIV:5(a) should be carried out. In the course of the discussion on this subject at the sixteenth session, the representatives of the Community expressed their readiness to make available all the information which might be considered necessary for facilitating the exercise under Article XXIV:5(a). In this respect several delegations stressed that it would be most valuable if the Commission of the EEC could submit information on the criteria which had been followed in establishing the common tariff. The CONTRACTING PARTIES agreed to ask the Executive Secretary to make the necessary arrangements to convene an informal meeting at the beginning of the Tariff Conference in September 1960 if contracting parties expressed the desire to obtain from the Commission of the EEC further clarification as to how the common tariff had been established and how the criteria of Article XXIV had been met.

(c) Preparation of the Negotiations of the EEC under Article XXIV:6

The Committee may wish to give some consideration to the details of the procedure proposed in the report of Committee I which are designed to expedite the negotiations by eliminating the need to negotiate on a number of items. In order to achieve this simplification the report of Committee I required the EEC to submit by 1 May 1960 a list of the items bound under GATT by its members and to indicate for each item whether the "internal compensation" equals, falls short of, or exceeds the amount required (BISD, Eighth Supplement, page 119). Committee I felt that such a list would not only facilitate negotiations as a whole, but would also facilitate dealing with all cases in respect of which the affected contracting parties considered the Community's offers as being satisfactory (BISD, Eighth Supplement, page 113, paragraph (ii)).

VII. Documentation

The Committee may also wish to examine the situation with respect to the submission by participating governments of the documentation required by the Rules and Procedures.

(a) The Negotiations under Article XXIV:6

The EEC is required to submit by 1 May 1960 the documentation described in Section VIII, C,(ii) of the Rules. Only a part of this documentation has been received up to now. The balance is expected shortly. The delay beyond the date fixed in the Rules has obviously retarded the submission of the lists of items which, in accordance with the Rules, the other contracting parties may wish to submit to the Community indicating the items in which they are interested and, for the Community's guidance, the items on which they would wish to request compensation.

(b) Negotiations under Article XXVIII

Contracting parties which might wish to re-negotiate under the terms of Article XXVIII;1 any concession in their Schedule are required by the Rules (Section I, (iv)) to submit their notification as soon as possible and not later than 15 July 1960.

(c) General Round and Accession

A participating contracting party or acceding government is required by the Rules to submit its lists of requests to other contracting parties not later than 1 August 1960. FIFTY copies of each list are to be sent to the secretariat at the same time. It is expected that, in some cases, the submission of request lists will be delayed. In particular, following the delayed submission by the EEC of the documentation referred to in paragraph III(a) above, certain contracting parties have advised the Commission of the EEC and the GATT secretariat that they will only be able to address to the Community their requests for new concessions a little later than the date laid down in the Rules, i.e. 1 August 1960.

IV. Negotiations with the EEC and Application of Article XXXV to Japan

The Japanese Government has submitted to the Tariff Negotiations Committee a memorandum (L/1245) on the problems raised by negotiations between Japan and the EEC in consequence of the fact that four of the six members of the Community have invoked Article XXXV against Japan.

V. Administrative Measures

The Committee will at its first meeting, apart from electing its Chairman, have to deal with a number of matters connected with the smooth operation of the Conference:

- (i) approval of rules of procedure of the Tariff Negotiations Committee;
- (ii) security regulations;
- (iii) administrative arrangements.

Documents relating to these matters will be issued by the secretariat in due course.

VI. Other Matters

Any contracting party wishing to propose an item for discussion by the Tariff Negotiations Committee should notify the secretariat as soon as possible so that a final draft agenda may be prepared about mid-August.