

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

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Committee on Agriculture

PROPOSALS FOR THE NEGOTIATIONS ON AGRICULTURE

1. The Committee on Agriculture has been given the responsibility of defining rules to govern, and methods to be employed in, the creation of acceptable conditions of access to world markets in agricultural products in furtherance of the significant development and expansion of world trade in such products.
2. The Committee has had comprehensive discussions about the possibility of establishing methods and rules acceptable to all parties in the negotiations. In the light of these discussions the proposed method would be to proceed by means of specific offers on individual products designed to achieve the objectives set out by Ministers.
3. For this purpose the following procedures should be applied:

(a) Bulk products

For cereals and meat, negotiations shall proceed on the basis of concrete proposals by participating governments with respect to each of the elements already agreed upon as entering into the negotiations. Accordingly, participating governments should be invited to formulate such concrete proposals and offers as may be appropriate and to submit them not later than 1 April. Negotiations based on these proposals will begin in the Groups on 22 April. The Groups on Meat and Cereals would meet at an early date in order to agree upon the practical details for the elaboration and submission of these proposals. The Group on Dairy Products should meet at the earliest possible date in order to examine how a similar procedure could be followed, and to make the necessary arrangements.

(b) Other products

By 1 April, contracting parties participating in the negotiations shall table a list of offers on individual products relating to all relevant elements of agricultural support or protection, or to the total effect of these elements, and designed to achieve the objective referred to in paragraph 1.

4. Negotiations based on the offers made should start by a multilateral confrontation in the Committee on Agriculture in the course of which participating governments should be prepared to furnish explanations on the content and the scope of their offers, in relation to the objectives stated in paragraph 1, to the interested participating governments which so request. In such confrontation explanations could also be requested as to the reasons for excluding particular products from the offer list.

5. Thereafter, the negotiations would proceed on the basis of the offers tabled in accordance with paragraph 3(b) above, bilaterally or multilaterally, as the case may be.

6. The Committee on Agriculture shall meet as necessary to facilitate the carrying out of the foregoing procedures.