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GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

Agreement on Trade in Civil Aircraft

Original: English

IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 3 OF THE AGREEMENT ON TRADE IN CIVIL AIRCRAFT

Proposal Submitted by the Delegation of Canada

Objective:

To exchange information on steps being taken by signatories to implement Article 3 of the Agreement on Trade in Civil Aircraft.

Introduction:

Article 3.1 of the Agreement states that "Signatories note that the provisions of the Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade apply to trade in civil aircraft. In addition, signatories agree that civil aircraft certification requirements and specifications on operating and maintenance procedures shall be governed, as between signatories, by the provisions of the Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade."

This provision of the Agreement recognizes that civil aircraft certification requirements and specifications on operating and maintenance procedures can have trade restricting or distorting effects.

Issues:

The Agreement on Trade in Civil Aircraft envisages that in the case of civil aircraft the provisions of the Technical Barriers Agreement apply not only to product standards and certification systems, but also to aircraft certification requirements and specifications on operating and maintenance procedures. As this provision raises implementation issues unique to civil aircraft, the Canadian delegation believes that the Committee should give further consideration to the effective implementation of Article 3.1. Issues which need to be addressed include:

A) Identification of specific certification requirements and specifications on operating and maintenance procedures covered by the Aircraft Agreement.

B) The implementation of the provisions of the Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade (including as examples Articles 2, 7 and 10) as they apply to certification requirements and specifications on operating and maintenance procedures covered by Article 3.1 of the Aircraft Agreement.

C) The role of other international bodies such as the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO).

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Proposal:

As a first step, the Technical Sub-Committee might be asked, with technical advice from airworthiness certification authorities, to identify specific certification requirements and specifications on operating and maintenance procedures covered by the Aircraft Agreement. The Technical Sub-Committee could also examine steps being taken by signatories to implement Article 3.1 of the Agreement with respect to the certification requirements and specifications identified by the Technical Sub-Committee, having regard to the requirements of the Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade including as examples Articles 2, 7 and 10. Included in this discussion could be an examination of existing systems with a view to avoiding duplication of work done by other institutions.