

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED
TBT/5
28 January 1981
Special Distribution

Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade

WORKING PARTY ON THE ACCESSION OF BULGARIA
TO THE AGREEMENT

Progress Report by the Chairman

1. The terms of reference of the Working Party on the Accession of Bulgaria, established by the Committee at its last meeting in November 1980, are "to draw up proposals for mutually satisfactory terms for the accession of Bulgaria to the Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade and to report to the Committee prior to the next meeting" (TBT/4).
2. This report is submitted to the Committee by the Chairman on his own responsibility. The Chairman is only in a position to present a progress report to the Committee. It has become apparent that the matter before the Working Party is of some complexity and has a number of implications, in particular because it relates to the first application from a government which is not a contracting party for accession to an agreement drawn up during the Multilateral Trade Negotiations.
3. The Working Party held its first meeting on 16 January 1981. It agreed to proceed with its work under three headings: first, general statements on the positions of delegations, second, exchange of additional factual information, and third, proposals for mutually satisfactory terms of accession.
4. A number of general statements were made. It emerged from the statements that delegations, in general, welcomed the application from Bulgaria. However, delegations addressed themselves to the framework within which the Working Party should carry out its task and the way in which the particular case before it should be tackled.
5. The Working Party then began its exchange of additional factual information, hearing, inter alia, a statement on the details of the operation of the Bulgarian standards system. It also agreed that it would carry this exchange further by way of written questions and answers which delegations considered to be relevant to the mandate of the Working Party. Questions would be sent to the secretariat by 23 January 1981 and replies to these questions would be received by the secretariat by 13 February 1981.
6. Delegations were then given an opportunity to make statements regarding the specific terms of accession of Bulgaria to the Agreement.
7. Finally, the Working Party agreed to hold its second meeting on 27 February 1981.