

# GENERAL AGREEMENT ON

## TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

TBT/Spec/22  
15 June 1990

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Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade

Original: English

COMMENTS OF AUSTRIA ON THE NOTIFICATION BY SWEDEN  
ON IMPREGNATED WOOD (TBT/NOTIF.90.85)

The following communication, dated 6 June 1990, has been received from the delegation of Austria.

Sir,

I have the honour to transmit to you the copy of a letter addressed to the Permanent Mission of Sweden, with the request to circulate the Austrian comments to signatories of the Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade.

Accept, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

(signed)  
Richard Hochörtler  
Deputy Permanent  
Representative

Mr. Arthur Dunkel  
Director-General  
GATT

Geneva

90-0846

Geneva, 6 June 1990

Dear Mr. Ambassador,

With reference to notification TBT/Notif.90.85 my authorities have instructed me to transmit to you the following comments:

It is to be noted that wood protective agents in Austria my undergo a voluntary examination by a respective commission. An approval in the form of a certificate of recognition will be given only if documents issued by authorized Austrian institutes can be submitted confirming the effectiveness and absence of any health hazard. The health test of wood protective agents also includes environmental parameters.

Restrictions of the type and scope of application based on toxicological examinations are not as restrictive as are the relevant Swedish provisions. A topical list of products tested and admitted by the examination commission for wood protective agents is contained in the Austrian Register for Wood Protective Agents (18th edition 1990).

In addition we would mention that a precise definition of the term "constituting a danger to the environment" has as yet not been laid down in the Chemical Act (F.L.G. No. 208 of 1989 05 11) and an anticipation of the respective regulations would appear inadequate.

A copy of this letter has been sent to the Director-General of GATT.

Accept, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

(signed)  
Richard Hochörtler  
Deputy Permanent  
Representative

H.E. Mr. Lars E.R. Anell  
Ambassador  
Permanent Mission of Sweden  
9-11, rue de Varembe  
Geneva