

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

C/M/45

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COUNCIL
15 February 1968

MINUTES OF MEETING

Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
on 15 February 1968

Chairman: Mr. Carlos BESA (Chile)

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1. International trade in poultry (L/2972 and C/M/44)

The Chairman recalled that at the meeting of Council on 5 February members had requested time for reflection upon the request of the United States Government for an Article XXII:2 consultation on trade in poultry and it had been agreed that the Council should meet again to decide on action to be taken. The statement by the United States representative had been distributed in document L/2972.

The representative of the United States observed that the reasons underlying the United States recourse to Article XXII:2 had been provided in his earlier statement (L/2972). Since 1962 international trade in poultry had been characterized by increased protection in some markets and intensified competition in others through export subsidies. In 1965 the United States had held consultations under Article XXII:1 with Austria, Denmark, the European Economic Community and Switzerland. These consultations had not produced concrete results. Since then the difficulties in the international market for poultry had intensified in that additional markets and products were being affected. Accordingly, the United States was requesting the establishment of a working party and he would suggest that its members should include, in addition to those countries which had participated in the Article XXII:1 consultations, Canada, Greece, Japan and the United Kingdom. Whilst the United States had experienced difficulties in connexion with chickens and turkeys, it would be prepared to have other poultry products covered in the consultation. A paper was being prepared and would be distributed three weeks in advance of the meeting of the working party.

The spokesman for the European Economic Community said that the Community was not necessarily in agreement with all the considerations put forward in the request for a working party but this was not essential for its establishment. The Community was willing to participate on the understanding that the working party would consider all elements relevant to the problems under discussion and that its membership would be sufficiently large to be representative. In view of the fact that the working party would not restrict itself to chickens and turkeys, he suggested that Poland should participate.

The representative of Denmark expressed the willingness of his Government to participate in a working party. There were difficulties in the poultry trade which particularly affected Denmark, the major portion of whose production was exported. He could not accept the statement made by the representative of the United States at the meeting of the Council on 5 February (L/2972, page 1) that Denmark "had established within the past few years global programmes to assist exports through direct and indirect subsidies". Denmark had been the victim of circumstances and the working party would provide a forum for clarification of such points. He suggested that, to be effective, the working party should have a limited membership.

The representatives of other countries proposed for participation in a working party also agreed to do so. A number of these representatives reserved the position of their governments as regards the substance of the case. Some representatives referred to the conclusions of the CONTRACTING PARTIES at their twenty-fourth session on the future work programme as regards agriculture and particularly to the fact that discussions on urgent problems "should be conducted not in a spirit of confrontation but as a means of arriving at mutually acceptable solutions".

The representative of Argentina requested participation in the working party.

The Council agreed to the establishment of a working party with the following terms of reference:

"To conduct, on behalf of the CONTRACTING PARTIES, a consultation under paragraph 2 of Article XXII, on problems in international trade in poultry and to report to the Council."

The Chairman said that it was understood that the working party would examine all elements in the present situation in the world poultry trade which were relevant and necessary to the purposes of the consultation and that, as in all consultations arranged by the CONTRACTING PARTIES under paragraph 2 of Article XXII, it would endeavour to find mutually acceptable solutions to the problems under consideration. It was further understood that the consultation would be of the type envisaged by the CONTRACTING PARTIES when they adopted their conclusions on the work programme for agriculture at the twenty-fourth session.

The Chairman suggested that the working party should be composed of those parties which had participated in the 1965 consultation under paragraph 1 of Article XXII and those which had now requested or had been proposed for membership. On this basis it was agreed that the membership of the working party would be as follows:

Argentina	European Economic	Poland
Austria	Community	Switzerland
Canada	Greece	United Kingdom
Denmark	Japan	United States

The Chairman said that the Chairman of the working party would be appointed later and that the first meeting would probably be held in mid-March.

2. Consultation with Poland

The Chairman pointed out that, in terms of the Protocol for the Accession of Poland, the Government of Poland was to consult with the CONTRACTING PARTIES nine months after the date of the Protocol, i.e. by the end of March 1968, and thereafter annually. He suggested that the Council might wish, in accordance with the established procedures, to appoint a working party to conduct the first consultation on behalf of the CONTRACTING PARTIES.

The Council agreed to the establishment of a working party with the following terms of reference and membership:

"To conduct, on behalf of the CONTRACTING PARTIES, the first consultation with the Government of Poland provided for in paragraph 5 of the Protocol of Accession."

Argentina	Finland	Netherlands
Australia	France	Nigeria
Austria	Germany, F.R.	Poland
Belgium	India	Sweden
Brazil	Italy	Switzerland
Canada	Japan	United Kingdom
Czechoslovakia	Luxemburg	United States

Chairman: Mr. Langeland (Norway)

The Chairman said the working party would be convened on or about 25 March.