

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

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INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN WASTE GOODS

Proposals by the Bureau International de la Récupération

1. The Executive Secretary has received two letters from the Bureau International de la Récupération in Paris, which is a non-governmental organization composed of associations and federations representing the waste trade in Belgium, Denmark, France, the Federal Republic of Germany, Italy, Luxembourg, The Netherlands, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and the United States. The subject matters covered are (a) common customs nomenclature for old clothing and other textile articles, and (b) barriers to trade in non-ferrous scrap metals.
2. The contents of the two communications are noted below for the information of the contracting parties. The original letters and the attached material may be consulted by interested contracting parties at the secretariat.

Old Clothing and other Textile Articles

3. The Bureau forwarded a copy of the tariff descriptions, together with explanatory notes, proposed by the Explanatory Notes Sub-Committee of the European Customs Cooperation Council, for tariff items 63.01 (old clothing and other textile articles) and 63.02 (rags and other scrap textile articles), and stressed the desirability of having as many countries as possible adopt those standardized tariff descriptions so as to avoid possible misunderstanding or differences of interpretation.

Scrap Metals

4. The Bureau transmitted a copy of a resolution adopted in May 1956 by its Non-Ferrous Metals Section which reads as follows:

"That this Meeting deploras the fact that more than ten years after the 1939-1945 war the problem of free multilateral trade in non-ferrous scrap metals in Western Europe has not been satisfactorily solved, resulting in the trade being unable to re-establish to its pre-war importance.

"That in the opinion of the meeting there is no longer any justification for keeping the non-ferrous scrap trade the only trade restricted by regulations which came into force under emergency war-time controls.

"That the Meeting formally requests all the Governments concerned who have already agreed in principle to the liberalizing of international trade in non-ferrous scrap metals, to take the necessary measures to permit freedom of trade to become effective."

5. In transmitting this resolution the Bureau described the present situation concerning export restrictions and other barriers to the trade in non-ferrous scrap metals, outlined past developments in this field, and amplified the reasons why it was considered desirable that trade in these commodities should be as free as possible.

Other Interests of the Bureau

6. The Bureau also stated that it was prepared to be consulted by the CONTRACTING PARTIES on all matters concerning the trade in scrap iron and steel, waste paper and miscellaneous waste materials, as well as in waste textile articles and non-ferrous metal scrap.