

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

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ARGENTINA - ACCESSION

Request for participation in Tariff Negotiations

Statement by the Representative of the Argentine at the Meeting of the Council on 23 September 1960

It is a great honour and a great pleasure for me to inform this session of the Council on behalf of the Government of the Argentine of their recent decision to accede to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.

As the Argentinian observer has already stated at the sixteenth session of the CONTRACTING PARTIES, the main features of our trade policy can be summarized as follows: (i) a strengthening of the multilateral character of our policy through active participation by the Argentine Republic in the work of international and regional economic organizations; (ii) the liberalization of trade through the elimination of bilateral payments agreements which existed under our previous exchange control system; (iii) an expansion of trade based on competition within the framework of negotiated bilateral or multilateral trade agreements including most-favoured-nation treatment and through the elimination of all restrictions.

The measures adopted and our general line of commercial policy fully conform to the objectives of the General Agreement of achieving the highest possible levels of international trade that will facilitate economic expansion in all countries.

This identity of methods and objectives has lead my government formally to submit to GATT an application for accession under Article XXXIII which is already before the members of the Council.

This request for accession implies a firm intention on the part of the Argentine Government to co-operate with other countries which are parties to the General Agreement in order to find appropriate solutions to the various problems in the field of international trade, not only in respect of customs tariffs but also from the point of view of the various factors which constitute real obstacles and hamper or retard the progress which international trade is endeavouring to achieve.

As delegates are aware, my country is devising the ways and means which will make it possible to adapt our customs tariff to the Brussels Nomenclature and to terminate the provisional surcharge exchange system which has been substituted for our exchange control system.

We undertake to spare no effort in order to complete tariff negotiations with the contracting parties so as to achieve our final tariff consolidation at the earliest possible date.

Mr. Chairman, fellow delegates, I only wish now to express my gratitude to you and to the GATT secretariat for facilitating this request for accession and to ask you, on behalf of my Government, to make all the necessary arrangements in order that our request should be dealt with as promptly as possible, in conformity with the procedures of the organization.

My Government is at the disposal of the contracting parties to supply to an ad hoc working party, or by other means which might be deemed to be more appropriate, every information which might facilitate the accession of Argentina.