

# GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

L/5206

26 October 1981

Limited Distribution

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Committee on Government Procurement

## MEETING OF 13-15 OCTOBER 1981

### Note by the Chairman

1. The Committee held its fourth meeting on 13-15 October 1981 under the chairmanship of Mr. V. Segalla (Austria).
2. The Committee welcomed statements made to the effect that consultations were under way between certain Parties and one observer concerning possible accession of the latter to the Agreement.
3. The Committee continued its detailed examination of national implementing legislation based on information members had submitted. The Committee agreed to retain this item on the agenda. In the course of the examination, one Party, which had previously accepted the Agreement, informed the Committee that it had in the meantime deposited its instrument of ratification.
4. The Committee discussed problems related to the scope of the Agreement, and agreed to pursue these matters at the next meeting. The Committee agreed that Parties should submit information on their current practices relating to leasing and similar arrangements and reiterated its invitation to Parties to submit a description of the types of contracts that were considered to fall within the scope and coverage of the Agreement.
5. The Committee noted that in two cases contract notices did not identify whether contracts were published under the terms of the Agreement; it noted, however, that the governments concerned would be actively endeavouring to do so in the near future. It was agreed to retain the item on the agenda for the next meeting.
6. The Committee took note of statements made concerning the treatment of taxes and duties for the purpose of determining whether a contract falls over or below the threshold of the Agreement. It noted that the position of delegations had not changed in this respect, and agreed to keep the matter on the agenda for the next meeting.
7. The Committee discussed procedures for consultations under the Agreement pursuant to Article VII:3 and 4, in particular the question of notifications and participation of third Parties in such consultations. The issue remains on the agenda.

8. The Committee conducted its first annual review of the implementation and operation of the Agreement on the basis of a background document (GPR/W/9) prepared by the secretariat. It agreed that additional or updated information supplied by members should reach the secretariat not later than 20 November 1981; the secretariat would subsequently issue a revised version of the document which would be regarded as adopted unless comments to the opposite effect were received by 31 December 1981. The Committee decided in principle to derestrict this document unless objections were raised before the next meeting.
9. The Committee noted a report by one member on consultations it had held with another Party pursuant to Article VI:3. These had touched on several matters relating to implementation of the Agreement. It further heard statements by one Party concerning certain statistical questions as well as purchasing practices by entities not covered by the Agreement.
10. The Committee noted a number of rectifications of a purely formal nature and minor amendments to the Annexes of the Agreement and the issuance of the first set of replacement pages for the loose-leaf sets of these Annexes. Parties which had not done so were again invited to nominate as soon as possible persons who would be available for serving on panels. At the beginning of 1982, the existing nominations should be confirmed or new ones should be made. The Chairman also reminded members of the procedures adopted for submission of 1981 statistics, for the annual fixing of thresholds in national currencies, and for the derestriction of documents.
11. The next meetings of the Committee will be held on 2-4 February 1982, and on 3-5 November 1982, with the possibility of an additional meeting being held between these dates.