

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

L/5411

16 November 1982

Limited Distribution

REPORT (1982) OF THE COMMITTEE ON IMPORT LICENSING

1. The Agreement on Import Licensing Procedures entered into force on 1 January 1980. As of 22 November 1982 there were twenty-three signatories to the Agreement: Argentina, Australia, Austria, Canada, Chile, Czechoslovakia, Egypt, the European Economic Community, Finland, Hungary, India, Japan, New Zealand, Norway, Pakistan, Philippines, Romania, South Africa, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom on behalf of Hong Kong, United States and Yugoslavia. Argentina has signed the Agreement subject to ratification.
2. The Committee on Import Licensing elected Mr. R. Long (Ireland), Chairman, and Mr. F. McEldowney (United States), Vice-Chairman for 1982.
3. Twenty-five contracting parties and six non-contracting parties have observer status. Two international organizations (IMF and UNCTAD) have attended meetings of the Committee in an observer capacity.
4. The Committee on Import Licensing met on one occasion since it last reported to the CONTRACTING PARTIES, on 10 May 1982 (LIC/M/6 and L/5327).
5. During the period under consideration signatories to the Agreement communicated regularly to the Committee changes in their laws and regulations relevant to the Agreement and in the administration of such laws and regulations by way of notifications (LIC/1 and addenda) or by oral statements made in the Committee.
6. Copies of publications containing information on new rules concerning import licensing procedures or recent lists of products subject to the licensing requirement were made available for reference to the secretariat as and when they were published (LIC/3, corrigenda and addenda).
7. Signatories were invited to bring up-to-date their individual country data supplied in response to the GATT Questionnaire on Import Licensing Procedures. The status of relevant notifications as of 13 July 1982 is contained in document L/5106/Rev.1.
8. At its meeting on 10 May 1982, the Committee took note of the statements made by signatories in response to questions addressed to them on the administration of automatic and non-automatic import licensing procedures applied in their countries. Several members explained their implementation of the provisions of the Agreement relating to transparency. In this respect the Committee noted that further information was needed from one signatory on the steps taken to comply with the relevant requirements of the Agreement.
9. The Committee made a contribution to the Ministerial meeting in the form of a note by the Chairman on the implementation and operation of the Agreement (LIC/6).