

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT

Meeting of 24 February 1983

Note by the Chairman

1. The Committee met on 24 February 1983.
2. The Committee elected Mr. M. Pullinen (Finland) as Chairman and Mr. D. McPhail (United Kingdom, Hong Kong Office), as Vice-Chairman.
3. The Committee noted statements made concerning the possible accession of three observers to the Agreement. It was recalled that, under the procedures for accession of contracting parties to the Agreement (L/5101, Annex II; GPR/M/1, Annex II) the Committee is required to agree to the terms of accession, including the list of entities to be included in Annex I of the Agreement. The Committee agreed on a procedure which will permit countries to accede to the Agreement in the interval between meetings. These procedures are set out in Annex I to this note.
4. The Committee continued its examination of national legislation and administration of the Agreement, during which a number of questions concerning individual countries were raised.
5. The Committee discussed preparations for the further negotiations foreseen in Article IX:6(b) of the Agreement. This discussion was without prejudice to delegations' subsequent negotiating positions. The main questions related to expanded entity coverage, service contracts, leasing, specific derogations, lowering of the threshold of 150,000 SDR, lengthening of bid deadlines and inclusion of a self-denial clause. The Committee will revert to preparations for Article IX:6(b) negotiations at its next meeting, inter alia, on the basis of information which delegations were invited to submit in respect of some of the items. Procedures relating to the further negotiations are also expected to be discussed at the next meeting on the basis of a note which the secretariat was requested to draw up in consultation with delegations.
6. The Committee noted that a panel had been set up under Article VII:7 and that its composition would be fixed in accordance with the relevant provisions of Article VII.
7. The delegation of the Commission of the European Communities informed the Committee of an EC Council decision of 25 January 1983 extending the benefits of the Agreement to least-developed countries.
8. The Committee noted proposals for the establishment of a practical guide explaining the Agreement and agreed to revert to this question at the next meeting.

9. The Chairman reminded the Committee about nominations of panelists for 1983, and notifications of the threshold value of the Agreement (150,000 SDR), as expressed in national currencies. The Committee noted that the background document from the second annual review (GPR/16) had been derestricted.

10. The Committee agreed to hold meetings on 25-27 May 1983 and on 2-4 November 1983.

ANNEX I

ACCESSION OF CONTRACTING PARTIES TO THE AGREEMENT

In pursuance of the Committee's decision at its first meeting concerning accession of contracting parties to the Agreement (L/5101, Annex II; GPR/M/1, Annex II), the Committee agreed at its meeting held on 24 February 1983, that a country interested in acceding to the Agreement on Government Procurement might avail itself of the following procedure if it so desired:

- (i) An acceding country, once its consultations with the Parties are completed, will submit to the Director-General the terms agreed, including its list of entities to be included in Annex I of the Agreement;
- (ii) The secretariat will circulate this communication to the Parties, inviting them to confirm in writing within thirty days, whether they accept the terms of accession as set out; and
- (iii) Once all the members of the Committee have given their consent, the Committee will be considered to have taken the decision called for in the procedures adopted at the Committee's first meeting, and the acceding contracting party would be free to deposit its instrument of accession with the Director-General.