

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

INTERNATIONAL DAIRY PRODUCTS COUNCIL

EIGHTH SESSION

Note by the Chairman

1. The International Dairy Products Council held its eighth session on 24 March 1983.
2. Mr. R. Long (Ireland) was elected Chairman and Mr. A. Cruit (United States), Vice-Chairman of the Council.
3. Under Rules 11 and 14 of its Rules of Procedure, the Council invited the representatives of Mexico and Panama, and representatives of OECD, UNCTAD, FAO and the Economic Commission for Europe, to attend the session's proceedings as observers.
4. The Council reviewed the functioning of the Arrangement. It took note of reports on the implementation of the Protocol Concerning Certain Milk Powders, the Protocol Regarding Milk Fat and the Protocol Regarding Certain Cheeses, and of the serious concern expressed with regard to the situation in the market for those products, particularly in respect of skimmed milk powder and butter.
5. For its evaluation of the situation in and outlook for the world market for dairy products, the Council had before it two documents prepared by the secretariat, namely a status report on the world market for dairy products (DPC/W/26) and a note on food-aid operations (DPC/W/27). During that evaluation, the Council gave particular consideration to dairy policies and food-aid.
6. The Council noted that dairy production was expected to show an increase, that stocks of certain products had reached a high level, and took note of certain other factors affecting the world market for dairy products, in particular a possible decline in import demand from certain markets. The Council underlined that the utmost vigilance was necessary and that, in order to avoid disruption of the international market, a continuing responsible attitude on the part of participants and effective co-operation among them were of decisive importance. It further underlined the need for strict observance of the provisions of the Arrangement and recalled the procedures that might have to be applied if necessary.
7. The next regular session of the Council has been scheduled, subject to confirmation, for 29 and 30 September 1983.