

# GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

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## COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT

Meeting of 20 June 1984

Note by the Chairman

1. The Committee met on 20 June 1984.
2. The principal item on the agenda was the ongoing negotiations pursuant to Article IX:6(b) of the Agreement.
3. A "Consolidated List of Suggestions Made for Improvements of the Agreement" (GPR/W/56) served as background documentation. This document contained concrete or specific suggestions that had been made in writing or at the last meeting. Some suggestions raised no particular problem from a conceptual point of view, some were related to the general implementation of the Agreement and some were related to the question of broadening of the Agreement. All proposals are kept on the agenda, which remains open for further proposals. One Party made an additional proposal for improvements (GPR/W/56/Add.1). Focussing on proposals that needed to be further clarified or made more specific, the Committee invited the Parties to submit by 15 July 1984 replies to certain questions concerning rules of origin and the treatment of high-priced bids. The secretariat would compile the replies for the next meeting. It was also agreed that it would be useful if Parties that had made suggestions for improvements provided, before the next meeting, more precision in terms of specific language as to how the Agreement might be improved.
4. The secretariat circulated a paper summarizing views and suggestions for improvements expressed in more general terms in oral statements as from the opening of the negotiations in November 1983. This documentation (GPR/W/56/Add.2), pertaining mainly to questions relating to developing countries, will be before the Committee at its next meeting. Noting that the question of transparency had been one question raised by observers in the Committee, the Chairman announced that, in the future, statistics will be circulated as ordinary GPR documents (and thus be available to observers), that statistical reviews would be conducted in regular Committee meetings, and that the statistics will be derestricted one year after the conclusion of the annual review. The Committee noted that a summary of 1982 statistics would be circulated in the near future.
5. The Committee noted that so far only one Party had tabled request lists concerning entities. Another Party expressed the hope that it would be in a position to submit requests no later than October/November 1984. It was noted that entity offers by observers interested in becoming participants in the negotiations could be made at any time during the negotiations but that, so far, no such offer had been received.

6. The Committee discussed whether service contracts other than the two types already covered might be included in the study agreed upon at the last meeting. Computer services, advertizing and building maintenance, including cleaning services were taken up in this connection. A number of reservations were expressed. Noting that the matter might be pursued in informal consultations, it was agreed that a study on computer services would be launched, provided the reservations were lifted. It was agreed that Defence Ministries' procurements other than those that are defence sensitive should be included in the studies already initiated.
7. The Committee noted a statement by one Party to the effect that all elements in the negotiations (i.e. improvements, broadening and service contracts) should be pursued in parallel.
8. It was noted that some information which Parties had been invited to provide in the negotiating context was still outstanding. Some Parties gave additional information on certain points.
9. The Committee examined general and specific questions relating to national implementation and administration of the Agreement. A number of questions concerning individual countries were raised. Some Parties expressed serious concern with regard to some of the matters taken up in this regard.
10. The Committee took note of statements made concerning the modification notified by one Party with respect to its entity list. The Chairman referred in this connection to Article IX:5(b) under which the matter might be pursued in accordance with the provisions of Article VII of the Agreement. The matter will be reverted to at the next meeting. The Committee took note of questions raised and observations made concerning possible changes in the status of certain entities in one other Party. It was noted that a proposed amendment to the entity list of another Party would come into effect provided no objections were received by 23 June 1984.
11. The Committee agreed on an outline for the practical guide presently under preparation, but gave the secretariat a certain latitude in the layout to be used. The Parties were invited to submit comments and additional information by 30 September 1984.
12. The secretariat was requested to prepare documentation for the fourth annual review and the 1984 Report to the CONTRACTING PARTIES.
13. The Chairman invited Parties who had not yet done so to nominate panel candidates.
14. The Chairman announced that the Panel report on Value-Added Tax and Threshold had been adopted on 16 May 1984 and that a number of statements had been made following the adoption. The report and the statements would be circulated to the observers (GPR/21).
15. The next meeting will be held on 18-20 September 1984.