

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON
TARIFFS AND TRADE

L/5762
20 December 1984
Limited Distribution

SERVICES

Fortieth Session of the CONTRACTING PARTIES

Action taken on 30 November 1984

The CONTRACTING PARTIES adopted the following agreed conclusions:¹

The CONTRACTING PARTIES,
Noting:

that a number of contracting parties with an interest in services have undertaken and circulated national examinations of the issues in this sector, and that other such examinations are recommended,

and that the process of carrying out the Ministerial Decision highlights the complexity of the issues involved,

In pursuance of the 1982 Ministerial Decision on services,

Agree to the following arrangements within GATT:

1. That the Chairman of the CONTRACTING PARTIES will organize the exchange of information provided for in the Ministerial Decision on issues in the services sector, essentially on the basis of national examinations, which could refer to any considerations in the area of services which appear relevant to the contracting party concerned, and the compilation and distribution of such information based on as uniform a format as possible;
2. The GATT secretariat will provide the support necessary for this process;
3. The Chairman of the CONTRACTING PARTIES will keep the Council informed of the progress made and report to the CONTRACTING PARTIES;

¹ Before adoption of the agreed conclusions, the CONTRACTING PARTIES took note of the following statement by the Chairman:

"Nothing in these agreed conclusions shall be interpreted as prejudicing the rights or positions of any contracting party in these matters nor as prejudging the consideration by the CONTRACTING PARTIES of whether any multilateral action in these matters is appropriate and desirable."

4. The CONTRACTING PARTIES decide to review the results of these examinations, along with the information and comments provided by relevant international organizations, at their next regular session and to consider whether any multilateral action in these matters is appropriate and desirable.¹

¹After adoption of the agreed conclusions, the CONTRACTING PARTIES took note of the following statement by the Chairman:

"With reference to the arrangements just agreed by the CONTRACTING PARTIES which provide for the organization of the exchange of information on issues in the sector of services, it is understood that:

In addition to servicing and keeping records of meetings, the secretariat would prepare an analytical summary of national examinations together with information made available by relevant international organizations and a summary of issues raised in the exchange of information. Concurrently the secretariat would propose a format, for the compilation and distribution by it of the information exchanged among contracting parties, to be progressively elaborated in order to make it as uniform as possible.

It is also understood that the secretariat could, on an agreed basis, undertake additional tasks as required."