

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

L/6060

6 November 1986

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COMMITTEE ON TECHNICAL BARRIERS TO TRADE

Meeting of 13-14 October 1986

Note from the Chairman

1. The Committee held its twenty-third meeting on 13-14 October 1986 under the Chairmanship of Mr. P. Kennedy (New Zealand).
2. Parties gave information on developments regarding the procedures for information exchange and participation in standards-related agreements in their countries. The Committee noted that informal consultations were being held between certain Parties concerning a safety mark in the territory of one Party which affected its imports of ski equipment.
3. The Committee reviewed the facilities for translation of documents relating to notifications on the basis of the data communicated by a number of Parties. It agreed to revert to the relevant proposals for the exchange of these translations between Parties after the completion of consultations among interested delegations.
4. The Committee considered the ISO/IEC Guides 25, 38, 39, 43 and 45 as providing an important contribution in ensuring the mutual confidence between Parties in testing and inspection activities and agreed that any such activity developed within the territories of Parties should be based on the principles and rules presented in these Guides. It also heard a preliminary discussion on the nature and scope of accreditation that could be granted by competent national bodies.
5. The Committee discussed a proposal on how to improve transparency on bilateral standards-related agreements (TBT/W/96) and agreed to revert to it at its next meeting. It also took note of the concerns expressed by one Party on the need to increase transparency in regional standards activities.
6. The Committee agreed that the Chairman, on its behalf, would submit to the Group of Negotiations on Goods a non-exhaustive list of subjects that might be addressed in further improvement, clarification or expansion, as appropriate, of the Agreement in the Uruguay Round.
7. The Committee held its seventh annual review of the implementation and operation of the Agreement under Article 15.8 on the basis of background documentation included in TBT/25 and Suppl.1, TBT/W/62/Rev.1 and Corrs.1 and 2, TBT/W/31/Rev.5 and Corrs.1 and 2, TBT/W/25/Rev.10 and Corr.1 and adopted its report (1986) to the CONTRACTING PARTIES (L/6061).
8. The next meeting of the Committee is scheduled for 9-10 March 1987.