

# GENERAL AGREEMENT ON

RESTRICTED

L/6348

1 June 1988

# TARIFFS AND TRADE

Limited Distribution

---

## COMMITTEE ON TECHNICAL BARRIERS TO TRADE

Meeting of 10 March 1988

Note from the Chairman

1. The Committee held its twenty-seventh meeting on 10 March 1988. It elected Mr. E. Contestabile (Switzerland), Chairman and Ms. L. Leger (Canada), Vice-Chairman for 1988.

2. The Committee noted that the Governments of Greece and Mexico had ratified the Agreement on 16 October 1987 and 9 February 1988, respectively.

3. The Committee addressed a proposal concerning the updating of the definitions for terms used in the Agreement in the light of the recent revision of the ISO/IEC Guide 2 on general terms and their definitions concerning standardization and related activities (TBT/W/103). Following its examination of the definitions in the second and fifth editions of the ISO/IEC Guide 2 for a selection of terms used in the Agreement, the Committee noted that the definitions for several terms had not changed, and that changes in the definitions for certain terms and the introduction of new definitions for a number of other terms had improved the understanding of the meaning of these terms used in the Agreement. In this connection, the Committee took note of questions raised by some Parties about the scope of the definition for the term "code of practice" in the ISO/IEC Guide 2 and the implication of this definition for the meaning of the term "processes and production methods" used in the Agreement. It also heard comments on the coverage of the new definition in the ISO/IEC Guide 2 for the term "declaration of conformity" which replaced the term "self-certification" used in Article 5.2 of the Agreement. Furthermore, the Committee had a brief discussion of the suggestions regarding the updating of the definitions and the explanatory notes in Annex 1 of the Agreement, as well as the inclusion of additional terms and their definitions in the same Annex. The Committee agreed to revert to the discussion of the Nordic proposal at its next meeting.

4. The Committee took note of the two proposals by the delegation of the United States relating to procedures for issuing product approval (TBT/W/107) and processes and production methods (TBT/W/108). It also noted that at its meeting held on 7-9 March 1987, the Negotiating Group on MTN Agreements and Arrangements had begun the discussion of the same

./.

proposals, circulated to the Group in documents MTN.GNG/NG8/W/23 and MTN.GNG/NG8/W/24. The Committee heard further clarifications by the delegation of the United States on a number of points in these proposals and agreed to revert to them at its next meeting.

5. The Committee agreed to hold its third three-year review under Article 15.9 at its meeting in the autumn following the arrangements for previous reviews.

6. The next two meetings of the Committee will be held on 12 July 1988 and 13 September 1988.