

# GENERAL AGREEMENT ON

## TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

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### COMMITTEE ON TECHNICAL BARRIERS TO TRADE

Meeting of 12 July 1988

Note from the Chairman

1. The Committee held its twenty-eighth meeting on 12 July 1988.
2. The Committee took note of the request for information by some Parties concerning the submission of written statements by Greece and Mexico under Article 15.7 and the establishment of their national enquiry points under Article 10. In this connection, it also took note of the oral statement by the representative of Mexico on the steps taken to ensure the implementation and administration of the Agreement in his country.
3. The Committee reverted to its discussion of a Nordic 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 "General terms and their definitions concerning standardization and related activities" (TBT/W/103). Continuing its study of the changes in 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 the information provided by the observer from the ISO/IEC and the UN/ECE Co-ordinator to the ISO/IEC Working Group on Definitions on the coverage of the respective definitions for the terms "declaration of conformity" in the ISO/IEC Guide 2 - 1986 and "self-certification" in ISO Guide 2 - 1978. The definitions for these terms were, in substance, the same and they both excluded the involvement of a third party. The Committee also noted that the question of the changes in the definitions of the term "code of practice" was not relevant to the present study as the term was not used in the Agreement and ISO/IEC Guide 2 did not give a definition for the term "processes and production methods". The Committee agreed to conclude, therefore, that the new and amended definitions in the ISO/IEC Guide 2 for terms used in the Agreement did not affect the substance of the Agreement but had in many cases improved the understanding of its relevant provisions.
4. The Committee also addressed a Nordic proposal which suggested the replacement, in Article 5, paragraph 2, of the term "self-certification" by the term "declaration of conformity" (TBT/W/103). It noted that because the definitions for these terms in the second and fifth editions of the ISO/IEC Guide 2 had not changed in substance, the suggested amendment, being of an editorial nature, would not affect the substance of the Agreement. The Committee endorsed the Nordic proposal and decided to proceed accordingly, at an appropriate time in future.

5. The Committee agreed to postpone the discussion of two further Nordic proposals regarding the updating of the definitions and the explanatory notes in Annex 1 of the Agreement, and the inclusion of additional terms and their definitions in the same Annex (TBT/W/103), until after the discussion of certain issues raised in relation to the improvement, clarification and expansion of the Agreement.

6. The Committee took note of the detailed comments of several Parties on the proposals by the United States on "Procedures for Issuing Product Approval" (TBT/W/107); "Processes and Production Methods" (TBT/W/108); "Improved Transparency in Bilateral Standards-Related Agreements" (TBT/W/111) and "Improved Transparency in Regional Standards Activities" (TBT/W/112). It took note of the proposals by the European Economic Community on "Code of good practice for non-governmental standardizing bodies" (TBT/W/110) and on "Extension of Major Obligations to Local Government Bodies" (TBT/W/113). These proposals had also been submitted to the Negotiating Group on MTN Agreements and Arrangements (MTN.GNG/NG8/W/23, 24, 31, 34, 35).

7. In its discussion of the relationship of the work of the Committee to the Negotiating Group on MTN Agreements and Arrangements, the Committee took note of the view of some Parties that non-signatory countries that might have an interest in joining the Agreement should be allowed to participate in the discussion of the subjects relating to its improvement, clarification and expansion.

8. The Committee took note of a statement by the delegation of the United States which expressed its concern with the way the procedures for dispute settlement under the Agreement had been implemented in the United States' case against the EC Animal Hormone Directive (85/649/EEC).

9. The Committee took note of the report by the delegation of Canada on the twelfth Plenary meeting of Pacific Area Standards Congress held in April 1988.

10. The Committee agreed to the arrangements for the ninth annual review to be held at its meeting on 13 September 1988.