

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON

RESTRICTED

L/6492

20 April 1989

TARIFFS AND TRADE

Limited Distribution

TECHNICAL GROUP ON QUANTITATIVE RESTRICTIONS AND OTHER NON-TARIFF MEASURES

Note on the Meeting of 11 April 1989

1. The Technical Group on Quantitative Restrictions and Other Non-Tariff Measures held its third meeting on 11 April 1989 (GATT/AIR/2743).
2. The Technical Group's terms of reference and the procedures relevant to its work as agreed by the CONTRACTING PARTIES since 1984 are consolidated in document NTM(TG)/W/4).
3. The following agenda was adopted:
 - A. Election of chairman
 - B. Continuation of the review of the accuracy and adequacy of the documentation and the grounds on which measures are maintained and their conformity with the General Agreement
 - C. Next meeting
 - D. Report to the Council
- A. Election of chairman
4. The Technical Group requested the secretariat to chair the meeting. The meeting was chaired by Mr. P. Williams.
- B. Continuation of the review of the accuracy and adequacy of the documentation and the grounds on which measures are maintained and their conformity with the General Agreement
5. The Chairman recalled that the Technical Group had met in September 1988 to carry out its biennial review in accordance with the procedures agreed by the CONTRACTING PARTIES (BISD, 31S/222-223 and 227-228; BISD, 32S/92-94).

6. At that meeting, the Technical Group had noted that more time was required for contracting parties to make their biennial complete notifications of the quantitative restrictions they maintained and for the secretariat subsequently to consolidate these in one document and to up-date its analyses of the basic documentation. The Technical Group, therefore, agreed to meet in April 1989 to resume its review of the accuracy and adequacy of the documentation and the grounds on which measures are maintained and their conformity with the General Agreement (L/6397, paragraph 19).

7. The secretariat had, as requested, consolidated the quantitative restrictions notifications in document NTM/W/6/Rev.5 and up-dated its analyses of the basic documentation in NTM(TG)/W/5. Notifications received since the consolidation in NTM/W/6/Rev.5 had been circulated in Addenda 1 and 2 to that document.

(i) Quantitative restrictions

8. The notifications of quantitative restrictions before the Technical Group consisted of the self-notifications in documents NTM/W/6/Rev.5 and Rev.5/Add.1 and 2, and in AG/FOR/REV/- series, and of reverse notifications in addenda 17-21 of the Inventory of Non-Tariff Measures (Industrial Products), NTM/INV/IV.A, B, C, E, and G.

9. In view of the adoption by some contracting parties of the Harmonized System (HS) Nomenclature, the documents in the NTM/W/6/- series were now in two parts, one in the Customs Co-operation Council Nomenclature (CCCN), one in the HS Nomenclature. This was reflected in the secretariat's analyses, where relevant annexes were also in two parts. The notifications in the AG/FOR/REV/- and NTM/INV/- series, however, remained entirely in the CCCN nomenclature.

10. The Technical Group noted that there had been some improvement in the self-notifications of quantitative restrictions since it had last met, in terms both of response rate and the compliance with agreed procedures. The tables of the NTM/W/6/- documentation contained detailed information relating to 49 countries (counting the EEC as one). This included 24 notifications (counting the EEC as one) received in response to the request for biennial complete notifications (GATT/AIR/2566) and seven recent notifications under other GATT procedures. Of these seven, six were complete notifications and one complemented a complete notification made to the Technical Group. The 30 countries (counting the EEC as one) for which up-to-date detailed information was available accounted for nearly 80 per cent of total contracting parties' trade (excluding intra-EEC trade). Nevertheless, as shown in Annex 3 of NTM(TG)/W/5, the fact remained that, for a significant number of contracting parties, the information available was out-of-date and for some contracting parties no information was available.

11. The Technical Group noted that the notifications had not all given the information called for by the CONTRACTING PARTIES. Annex 3 to NTM(TG)/W/5 (annexed to this document) indicated which notifications had not been made at the tariff-line level and which did not use the agreed list of symbols for the measures maintained. It also noted that contracting parties had not found it possible to indicate the trade effects of measures notified. With respect to the grounds and GATT conformity of measures maintained, the Technical Group noted Annexes 7, 8 and 9 to NTM(TG)/W/5.

12. Since the Technical Group's last meeting, there had been no notifications to the Inventory of Non-Tariff Measures (Industrial Products) and only one in the AG/FOR/REV/- series. This latter was made by a country already covered by a recent complete notification.

13. The Technical Group agreed that the notification procedures adopted by the CONTRACTING PARTIES (BISD, 31S/222-223 and BISD, 32S/92-93) should be adhered to by all contracting parties. It recommended that those contracting parties that had not up-dated their quantitative restrictions notifications be invited to do so and that those contracting parties whose notifications did not comply with the requirements agreed by the CONTRACTING PARTIES also be invited to amend their notifications accordingly. In particular, it recommended that those contracting parties which had not already done so, make complete notifications of the quantitative restrictions which they maintain as soon as possible, at the tariff-line level. In their current nomenclature or where this was not based on a Customs Co-operation Council nomenclature, the corresponding CCCN or HS headings. It drew attention to Annexes 3 and 9 of NTM(TG)/W/5. It noted that the next complete notification by contracting parties of the quantitative restrictions which they maintain would be due in April 1990.

14. The Technical Group agreed that contracting parties having made notifications of quantitative restrictions in the Integrated Data Base format on magnetic tape by April 1990 would be considered to have fulfilled the reporting requirements laid down by the CONTRACTING PARTIES provided that the notifications contained the information required for the purposes of the Group. It requested the secretariat to make the necessary technical arrangements to enable all quantitative restrictions notifications to be compiled for the purposes of the Technical Group.

(ii) Other Non-Tariff Measures

15. The notifications of other non-tariff measures before the Technical Group consisted of the reverse notifications in Addenda 17-21 of the Inventory of Non-Tariff Measures (Industrial Products) and the self notifications in the AG/FOR/REV/- series.

16. The Technical Group noted that, since its last meeting, no new notifications had been made to the Inventory of Non-Tariff Measures and one only in the AG/FOR/REV/- series. It noted further that little had been

done, in response to the recommendations of the CONTRACTING PARTIES (BISD, 31S/227-228 and BISD, 32S/93), to up-date the Inventory and improve the quality of the information it contained. Many notifications omitted the CCCN or HS headings of the products affected by notified measures; the effects of the measures were not always clearly stated; in few notifications had either notifying or maintaining country referred to relevant GATT provisions. It considered that the little activity in this area might be explained by the fact that notifications had now been called for in the context of the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations.

17. The Technical Group noted that, under the procedures adopted by the CONTRACTING PARTIES (BISD, 31S/222 and 227-228), the Inventory of Non-Tariff Measures remained open for notifications on a continuous basis. It recommended that those contracting parties whose notifications did not fully comply with the requirements agreed by the CONTRACTING PARTIES consider amending and up-dating their notifications accordingly.

18. The Technical Group noted that a few notifications had been misclassified and requested the secretariat to make the necessary amendments, in consultation with the delegations concerned.

(iii) Secretariat analyses

19. The Technical Group had before it the up-dated analyses by the secretariat of the basic documentation (NTM(TG)/W/5). It noted that it was no longer possible to up-date Annex 14, the compilation by tariff heading of the information in the NTM/W/6/-, NTM/INV/- and AG/FOR/REV/- series because, while some NTM/W/6/- notifications were now being made in HS, all NTM/INV/- and AG/FOR/REV/- notifications remained in CCCN. However, the compilation in Annex 14 had been made as a first step towards an integrated data base. This had, therefore, been largely overtaken by agreement to establish such a data base in GATT.

20. The Technical Group noted that its documentation remained available to other Groups, including the relevant bodies established under the Ministerial Declaration on the Uruguay Round (BISD, 33S/54).

C. Next meeting

(i) Date

21. The Technical Group noted that its next regular meeting would be held in September 1990 to carry out the biennial multilateral review of the accuracy and adequacy of the documentation and the grounds and GATT conformity of measures (BISD, 32S/94).

(ii) Documentation

22. The Technical Group noted that, as an increasing number of contracting parties made their notifications in the HS nomenclature, the size of the NTM/W/6/- documentation would grow very large. It therefore recommended that the secretariat:

- (i) publish as and when, necessary, a list of notifications received and incorporated in the data base;
- (ii) not to issue further compilations of notifications in the NTM/W/6/- documentation, but to make available to contracting parties, as and when requested on paper or computer tape, detailed extracts of the quantitative restrictions data base;
- (iii) in accordance with the agreed procedures, up-date its analyses (NTM(TG)/W/5) for the next multilateral review.

D. Report to the Council

23. The Technical Group requested the secretariat to prepare, in the usual way, a note on the meeting and agreed that this note should be presented as its report to the Council.

ANNEX

QUANTITATIVE RESTRICTIONS

Overview of Information

The following table updates Annex 3 of NTM(TG)/W/5. It summarizes the information available on measures maintained by all contracting parties as at 10 April 1989 (NTM/W/6/Rev.5 and Add.1 and 2).

The information is presented as follows:

- Column 1: the contracting parties applying the restrictions
- Column 2: the date on which the latest notification was made to the GATT
- Column 3: the nature of the information on measures maintained:
- D detailed (contained in the table of NTM/W/6/Rev.5)
 - G general (contained in the country notes of NTM/W/6/Rev.5)
 - No QRs the contracting party has notified that it does not maintain any quantitative restrictions
 - no information available
- Column 4: whether the detailed notification is made in the Customs Cooperation Council Nomenclature (CCCN) or the Harmonized System (HS)
- Column 5: whether products are identified at the tariff-line level
- Column 6: whether the notification conforms entirely with the revised list of measure symbols (BISD, 32S/108)
- Column 7: existence of quantitative restrictions notifications, against the contracting party concerned, in the Inventory of Non-Tariff Measures (Industrial Products): NTM/INV/IV.A, B, C, E, G

ANNEX (cont'd)

<u>Contracting Party</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Information</u>	<u>Nomen- clature</u>	<u>Tariff-line level</u>	<u>Revised symbols</u>	<u>Reverse notifications</u>
Antigua and Barbuda	-	-	-	-	-	No
Argentina	1986	D	CCCN	Yes	Yes	Yes
Australia	1988	D ¹	HS	No	Yes	Yes
Austria	1988	D, G	CCCN	Not all	Not all	Yes
Bangladesh	1987	D	CCCN	Not all	Yes	No
Barbados	1988	G	-	-	-	Yes
Belize	-	-	-	-	-	No
Benin	1968	G	-	-	-	Yes
Botswana	-	-	-	-	-	No
Brazil	1988	D	CCCN	Not all	Not all	Yes
Burkina Faso	1971	G	-	-	-	Yes
Burma	1965	G	-	-	-	No
Burundi	1971	G	-	-	-	Yes
Cameroon	1986	D, G	CCCN	No	Yes	Yes
Canada	1989	D, G	HS	Yes	Yes	Yes
Central African Rep.	-	-	-	-	-	Yes
Chad	1971	G	-	-	-	Yes
Chile	1988	D, G	CCCN	No	Yes	No
Colombia	1986	D	CCCN	Yes	Yes	Yes
Congo	1966	G	-	-	-	Yes
Côte d'Ivoire	1984	D	CCCN	Not all	Not all	Yes

¹Including assessment of trade effects.

ANNEX (cont'd)

<u>Contracting Party</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Information</u>	<u>Nomen- clature</u>	<u>Tariff-line level</u>	<u>Revised symbols</u>	<u>Reverse notifications</u>
Cuba	1986	No QRs ¹	-	-	-	No
Cyprus	1971	G	-	-	-	Yes
Czechoslovakia	1988	D	CCCN	No	No	Yes
Dominican Rep.	1985	G	-	-	-	Yes
EEC	1988	D, G	CCCN	Not all	Not all	Yes
Egypt	1988	D	CCCN	Yes	Yes	Yes
Finland	1988	D, G	CCCN	Not all	Yes	Yes
Gabon	1971	G	-	-	-	Yes
Gambia	-	-	-	-	-	No
Ghana	1987	D	CCCN	No	Yes	Yes
Guyana	1968	G	-	-	-	Yes
Haiti	-	-	-	-	-	Yes
Hong Kong	1988	D	HS	Yes	Yes	No
Hungary	1988	D	CCCN	Yes	Yes	Yes
Iceland	1984	D, G	CCCN	No	Not all	Yes
India	1988	D ² , G	CCCN	No	Not all	Yes
Indonesia	1984	D	CCCN	Yes	Not all	Yes
Israel	1988	D	CCCN	Not all	Not all	Yes
Jamaica	1985	D	CCCN	Not all	Not all	Yes
Japan	1987	D	CCCN	Not all	Yes	Yes
Kenya	1984	D, G	CCCN	Yes	Not all	Yes
Korea, Rep. of	1988	D	CCCN	Not all	Yes	Yes
Kuwait	1971	G	-	-	-	No

¹On imports.

²Information for licensing period 1985-1988. The notification for 1988-1991 is not specified in terms of CCCN or HS.

ANNEX (cont'd)

<u>Contracting</u> <u>Party</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Information</u>	<u>Nomen- clature</u>	<u>Tariff-line level</u>	<u>Revised symbols</u>	<u>Reverse notifications</u>
Lesotho	-	-	-	-	-	No
Madagascar	1976	G	-	-	-	Yes
Malawi	1986	D	CCCN	No	Not all	No
Malaysia	1984	D, G	CCCN	Not all	Not all	Yes
Maldives	-	-	-	-	-	No
Malta	1988	D	CCCN	No	Not all	Yes
Mauritania	1967	G	-	-	-	Yes
Mauritius	1985	No QRs	-	-	-	No
Mexico ¹	-	-	-	-	-	No
Morocco	1989	D	CCCN	Yes	Yes	No
New Zealand	1988	D	CCCN	Not all	Not all	Yes
Nicaragua	1965	G	-	-	-	Yes
Niger	1969	G	-	-	-	Yes
Nigeria	1988	D	HS	Not all	Yes	Yes
Norway	1988	D, G	CCCN	Not all	Not all	Yes
Pakistan	1989	D	HS	Not all	Not all	Yes
Peru	1987	D	HS	Yes	Not all	Yes
Philippines	1987	D, G	CCCN	No ²	Not all	Yes
Poland	1984	No QRs	-	-	-	Yes
Romania	1986	G	-	-	-	Yes
Rwanda	1971	G	-	-	-	Yes
Senegal	1984	D, G	CCCN	No	Not all	Yes
Sierra Leone	1971	G	-	-	-	Yes

¹The Mexican delegation has indicated that it has not made a formal notification of its quantitative restrictions for the purposes of the Technical Group.

²Agricultural restrictions: CCCN but no tariff lines; other restrictions: tariff lines in national nomenclature but no CCCN.

ANNEX (cont'd)

<u>Contracting Party</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Information</u>	<u>Nomen- clature</u>	<u>Tariff-line level</u>	<u>Revised symbols</u>	<u>Reverse notifications</u>
Singapore	1988	No QRs	-	-	-	Yes
South Africa	1988	D	CCCN	Yes	Yes	Yes
Sri Lanka	1988	D	CCCN	Yes	Yes	Yes
Suriname	-	-	-	-	-	No
Sweden	1989	D, G	HS	Not all	Yes	Yes
Switzerland	1988	D, G	CCCN	Not all	Not all	Yes
Tanzania	1969	G	-	-	-	Yes
Thailand	1988	D	CCCN	No	Not all	No
Togo	1967	G	-	-	-	Yes
Trinidad and Tobago	1984	G	-	-	-	Yes
Tunisia ¹	1988	D	CCCN	Not all	Yes	Yes
Turkey	1988	D	CCCN	Not all	Yes	Yes
Uganda	1965	G	-	-	-	Yes
United States	1988	D, G	CCCN	No	Yes	Yes
Uruguay	1986	D	CCCN	Yes	Yes	No
Yugoslavia	1989	D	HS	Yes	Yes	Yes
Zaire	1972	G	-	-	-	No
Zambia	1986	D, G	CCCN	No	Yes	No
Zimbabwe	1984	D, G	CCCN	No	Yes	Yes

¹Acceded provisionally.