

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON

RESTRICTED

L/6494

24 April 1989

TARIFFS AND TRADE

Limited Distribution

COMMITTEE ON TECHNICAL BARRIERS TO TRADE

Meeting of 18 January 1989

Note by the Chairman

1. The Committee held its thirtieth meeting on 18 January 1989. It elected Mrs. C. Guarda (Chile), Chairwoman, and Mr. P. van de Locht (Netherlands), Vice-chairman, for 1989.
2. The Committee was informed by the delegation of Mexico that, following the informal consultations held between Mexico and interested Parties, Mexico withdrew its request for time-limited exceptions from the implementations of certain obligations under the Agreement. In this connection, the Committee also noted that Mexico had submitted a statement on the implementation and administration of the Agreement (TBT/1/Add.36/Suppl.3 and Corr.1).
3. The Committee took note of two proposals by the Nordic countries on Testing Procedures (TBT/W/118) and Inspection Procedures (TBT/W/119) which had also been circulated to the Negotiating Group on MTN Agreements and Arrangements (MTN.GNG/NG8/W/41 and 42). It heard a statement made on behalf of the Nordic countries describing the nature of procedures and activities which these proposals aimed to cover. This statement also emphasized the importance of having commonly-accepted terms and their definitions relating to concepts in this area. The Committee also took note of the comments made by Parties regarding the specific sections of these proposals.
4. The Committee noted the draft definitions relating to processes and production methods prepared by the delegation of the United States (TBT/W/108/Add.1).
5. The Committee took note of a proposal by the Nordic countries which suggested the improvement and clarification of certain provisions of the Agreement on transparency, namely on notification procedures and on the operation of enquiry points (TBT/W/120).
6. The Committee heard a brief discussion concerning the proposals on improved transparency in bilateral standards-related agreements (TBT/W/111), improved transparency in regional standards activities (TBT/W/112), a code of good practice for non-governmental bodies (TBT/W/110), the extension of major obligations under the Agreement to local government bodies (TBT/W/113), transparency in the operation of

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certification systems (TBT/W/115) and transparency in the drafting process of standards, technical regulations and rules of certification systems (TBT/W/116).

7. The Committee heard statements by the delegations of the United States and the European Economic Community on the United States case against the EC Animal Hormone Directive (85/649/EEC) and the recourse by the European Community to the GATT Council regarding the retaliatory measures announced by the United States (C/M/228 and L/6438).

8. The Committee agreed that persons responsible for information exchange met informally in the week of 22 May 1989.