

# GENERAL AGREEMENT ON

RESTRICTED

## TARIFFS AND TRADE

C/W/642

4 July 1990

Limited Distribution

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COUNCIL  
11 July 1990

### TRADE POLICY REVIEW MECHANISM

#### Programme of Reviews

#### Communication from the Chairman

Following the CONTRACTING PARTIES' Decision of 12 April 1989 concerning the Trade Policy Review Mechanism (L/6490), and the communication by the Chairman concerning the programme of reviews in 1991 (C/W/603), I have held informal consultations with the contracting parties directly concerned on the programme of reviews for 1991. The attached draft Decision is the result of these consultations.

I wish to point out that, in the course of the consultations, many contracting parties have indicated their willingness in principle, but at the same time their difficulties in agreeing to come up for review in 1991 because of the heavy workload and the strain on resources that is anticipated, in particular in the first half of 1991, resulting from the implementation of the results of the Uruguay Round. Some contracting parties, notably Egypt, Korea and Uruguay, have indicated that they would be in a position to be reviewed only in the first half of 1992. Most contracting parties which have accepted a review in 1991 have expressed a strong preference to be reviewed in the later part of 1991. For these reasons, it appears not to be feasible to go beyond eleven reviews in 1991. The possibility of adding contracting parties to the 1991 programme could be kept under review in the light of circumstances. If not more than eleven reviews can be held in 1991, it will be necessary to provide for an additional number of reviews in subsequent years, taking into account the CONTRACTING PARTIES' Decision on the frequency of reviews (L/6490, Part I, para. C(i)). The programme for 1992 and the following years might be established with this in mind, following the overall review of the Trade Policy Review Mechanism at the end of the Uruguay Round.

It is my understanding that the programme of reviews to be conducted in 1992 will be established by 31 May 1991.

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TRADE POLICY REVIEW MECHANISM

PROGRAMME OF REVIEWS FOR 1991

Draft Decision

Following the CONTRACTING PARTIES' Decision of 12 April 1989 concerning the Trade Policy Review Mechanism (L/6490, Part I, para. D(iii)),

The Council decides that the Programme of Reviews for 1991 will be as follows:

June 1991

Bangladesh  
Chile  
Thailand

September 1991

Norway  
Switzerland

December 1991

Argentina  
Austria  
Finland  
Ghana  
Singapore  
United States

The Council will keep under review the possibility of adding other contracting parties to this list.