

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON

RESTRICTED

C/M/242

5 July 1990

TARIFFS AND TRADE

Limited Distribution

COUNCIL

14 and 29 June 1990

MINUTES OF MEETING

At the level of Heads of Delegations

Held in the Centre William Rappard
on 14 and 29 June 1990

Chairman: Mr. Rubens Ricupero (Brazil)

Subject: Director-General - Renewal of Appointment

The Chairman drew attention to the communication dated 1 June 1990 in which he had convened the present meeting at the level of heads of contracting party delegations, pursuant to a request from the Chairman of the CONTRACTING PARTIES, to consider an extension of the Director-General's contract.

The Chairman of the CONTRACTING PARTIES recalled that on 7 November 1988, at their Forty-Fourth Session, the CONTRACTING PARTIES had decided to renew Mr. Dunkel's appointment as Director-General for a further period of two years from 30 September 1989. The CONTRACTING PARTIES had also reaffirmed the applicability of the procedures set out in BISD 33S/55 for the appointment of the Director-General. Those procedures foresaw that the Director-General should be appointed by the CONTRACTING PARTIES at a regular session after a process of consultation to be conducted by the Chairman of the CONTRACTING PARTIES. He pointed out that the Forty-Sixth Session would be the last regular one before the expiry of Mr. Dunkel's contract, and that unless his contract were extended, the procedures would require the appointment of a new Director-General at that time.

In his view, the final stage of the Uruguay Round was not a propitious time for doing this. Moreover, Mr. Dunkel's experience would best provide the continuity needed to implement the results of the Round. In 1988, Mr. Dunkel's contract had been extended to September 1991, but it had become clear in the meantime that this had not been for a sufficiently long period. In his view, a further extension should be long enough to cover the various contingencies that might arise. Also, sufficient time should be provided for the important process of selecting the present Director-General's successor, since Mr. Dunkel had made clear to him his desire to move on to other duties.

Therefore, he had been consulting informally with contracting parties in order to establish their views on this matter. He had also consulted Mr. Dunkel, who was prepared, should it be the wish of the contracting parties, to accept an extension of his present term for a final period of fifteen months, i.e. up to the end of 1992.

He said that he had asked for the present meeting so as to ensure that all heads of delegations of contracting parties were aware of his informal consultations and so that they could give this matter proper consideration. He said that in his three informal consultations held so far, no delegation had opposed a further 15 month extension, and while the process was nearing a consensus, some additional time was needed to complete it. Accordingly, he suggested that the meeting be suspended so as to allow him to complete his consultations.

The Council took note of the statement and agreed to suspend the meeting.

The Council reverted to this matter at its resumed meeting on 29 June 1990.

The Chairman of the CONTRACTING PARTIES said that he had completed his informal consultations and had found a very large measure of support for the proposed extension with no delegation opposed to it.

The Council therupon took note of the statement by the Chairman of the CONTRACTING PARTIES and agreed to recommend that the Forty-Sixth Session of the CONTRACTING PARTIES extend the contract of the Director-General for a final period of fifteen months, i.e. up to the end of 1992.

The representative of Brazil, speaking on behalf of developing contracting parties, said that after conclusion of the process of extending the Director-General's mandate, he wished to inform the Council that those governments, in their capacity as contracting parties, would like to request that the Chairman of the CONTRACTING PARTIES initiate consultations on the need for strengthening and improving the rules and procedures for the selection of the Director-General and his Deputies. They also requested that he report to the next session of the CONTRACTING PARTIES on the progress of his consultations.

The representative of the United States said that his delegation would want to give serious consideration to the proposal just made. Not having had a full opportunity to review it, he suggested that the Council revert to this matter at its next meeting.

The Council took note of the statements and of the proposal and agreed to revert to it at the next meeting.