

# GENERAL AGREEMENT ON

RESTRICTED

L/6935

11 November 1991

# TARIFFS AND TRADE

Limited Distribution

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## REPORT (1991) OF THE COMMITTEE ON TECHNICAL BARRIERS TO TRADE

1. This report, submitted under Article 15.8 of the Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade, sets out developments in the implementation and operation of the Agreement since the Committee's last report on 15 October 1990 (L/6726).
2. There have been no changes in the status of acceptance of the Agreement. Thirty-seven signatories have accepted the Agreement under Article 15.1, two have accepted it subject to ratification, and one has accepted it under Article 15.2. There are twenty-four observers in the Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade. In addition, seven international organizations are invited to attend meetings of the Committee in an observer capacity.
3. The Committee held its forty-first and forty-second meetings on 31 May (TBT/M/40) and 1 November (TBT/M/41), respectively. At those meetings, the Committee heard statements on the implementation and administration of the Agreement.
4. At its forty-second meeting, the Committee carried out its twelfth annual review of the implementation and operation of the Agreement under Article 15.8, based on background documentation contained in TBT/33 and Add.1.
5. The Committee also adopted the following decision:

"The Committee takes note of the decisions in October 1991 of the ISO and IEC Councils to begin the consensus-building process for an ISO/IEC Code of Good Practice for Standardization. The Committee recognizes the valuable contributions ISO/IEC has made in achieving the objectives of the Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade and the importance of the co-operation of the private sector standards community worldwide to the success of this Agreement. The Committee emphasizes the importance it attaches to a continuous dialogue taking place between GATT and the ISO/IEC on this matter, as took place in connection with the adoption of mutually consistent Definitions for use in the TBT Agreement and the ISO/IEC. The Committee notes that ensuring the two Codes in question are mutually supportive would contribute considerably to furthering the objectives of the Agreement (1991) on Technical Barriers to Trade. The Committee decides that it will, upon completion of the ISO/IEC Code, evaluate its implications for the operation of the Agreement (1991) on Technical Barriers to Trade and take whatever further action it may consider appropriate at that time."
6. The Committee also requested the secretariat to prepare a factual paper analyzing statistically the notifications of environmental standards listed in L/6896, Annex V, to determine the scope and frequency of trade instruments used to implement those standards.