

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON

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TARIFFS AND TRADE

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ROMANIA - PROTOCOL OF ACCESSION

Communication from Romania

The following communication, dated 3 February 1992, has been received from the Permanent Mission of Romania, with the request that it be circulated for consideration at the Council meeting to be held on 18 February 1992.

At the Forty-Seventh Session of the CONTRACTING PARTIES, the Romanian delegation announced that the Romanian Government had taken the decision to request the renegotiation of the terms of Romania's Protocol of Accession to the GATT.

As previously notified to GATT (L/6838 of 12 April 1991 and L/6838/Add.1 of 12 November 1991), during the last two years Romania has adopted fundamental legislative measures under the Programme of Economic Reform for the transition to the market economy. A more liberal economic system has been established: central planning was abolished; the State monopoly on foreign trade and foreign exchange was dismantled; a new customs tariff based on the Harmonized System has been introduced and constitutes the main trade policy instrument; economic operators have full operational and managerial autonomy; privatization is under way; the private sector is being expanded; a liberal foreign investment régime is in place; most of the prices are liberalized; the internal convertibility of the national currency was introduced; the tax system is being reformed; and the banking and credit system has been reformed.

Having in view the steps undertaken in the process of transition to a liberal and open economy, based on market principles and rules, the Protocol of Accession of Romania to the GATT, concluded when Romania had a centrally-planned economy, has become outdated.

In the view of the Romanian Government, there is a pressing need to renegotiate the provisions of this Protocol in order to replace it by a standard Protocol with commitments based on tariff concessions. Such a renegotiation would stimulate the achievement of comprehensive economic reform and the fuller integration of Romania into the multilateral trading system.

L/6981

Page 2

Romania therefore requests the inclusion of this matter on the agenda of the 18 February meeting of the GATT Council. Romania is confident that the CONTRACTING PARTIES will examine favourably this request concerning the renegotiation of its Protocol of Accession to the GATT.