

# GENERAL AGREEMENT ON

## TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

DS32/6

16 February 1993

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### EEC - IMPORT REGIME FOR BANANAS

#### Report to the Council by the Director-General in accordance with the 1966 Decision

1. This statement has to be considered in conjunction with, and as a supplement to, my previous reports on the same matter made at the Forty-Eighth Session of the CONTRACTING PARTIES on 2 December 1992 and at the Council meeting yesterday, 9 February 1993.
2. You will recall that on 21 September 1992 the governments of Colombia, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Nicaragua and Venezuela requested that I lend my "good offices in an ex officio capacity, in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 1 of the Decision of 1966 on the procedures under Article XXIII, in order to facilitate a satisfactory solution to the dispute over measures to restrict the import of bananas currently applied by some member States of the EC..." (DS32/3). As I have already reported to you on earlier occasions, I agreed to lend my good offices. For the sake of transparency this request was announced at the Council meeting of 29 September 1992.
3. In the course of the Autumn, and apart from the first meeting of an organizational nature, I have held two formal good offices meetings with both parties. These meetings were held on 3 November and 1 December 1992 respectively. The consultations included an exchange of views on the various banana import systems of the member States of the European Community, systems which have been in place for a number of years and which are to be replaced by a new Community-wide régime on 1 July this year.
4. As I informed the Council in a statement made at the start of the discussions on this item, I also carried out a number of informal consultations with the parties individually and collectively. The aim of these consultations was to explore approaches towards a mutually satisfactory solution under the new import régime which was under consideration in the European Community.
5. As you are aware the good offices are due to finish at midnight tonight. However, since waiting for this deadline to be reached would not in my view change the factual situation, I have suggested to the parties concerned, and without setting a precedent, to inform the Council now and in a formal way on the outcome of my consultations under the good offices procedures. This suggestion having been agreed I can confirm that, to my regret, I have no mutually satisfactory solution to propose.
6. The background information referred to in the 1966 Decision will be circulated to the contracting parties shortly. This information was submitted by the parties at my request.