

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

MTN/TAR/W/11

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Special Distribution

Multilateral Trade Negotiations

Group "Tariffs"

PROCEDURES FOR FIXING AND MODIFYING TARIFF RATES

Note submitted by the Delegation of the European Communities

1. In accordance with the agreement reached (see MTN/4, paragraph 16, and MTN/TAR/3, paragraph 9), delegations were invited to submit to the GATT secretariat explanatory notes describing their national procedures for fixing and modifying tariff rates.
2. A number of notes have been transmitted to the secretariat and are reproduced in documents MTN/TAR/W/6 and Add.1.
3. The delegation of the European Communities would like to propose that the secretariat draw up, on the basis of these notes and of any additional information it might obtain from delegations, a synoptic table setting out the following points, country by country:
 - (1) Definition of what the various countries regard as legal tariff rates (general or statutory), GATT rates, and temporary rates. It would be helpful at the same time to specify what rates have been or are to be entered in the tariff rate information files which delegations were invited to transmit to the secretariat (Headings 4 to 6 in document MTN/3A/W/11).
 - (2) With regard to statutory rates:
 - (a) The authorities empowered to fix these rates (Parliament, Council of Ministers, Ministries, etc.),
 - (b) The period of validity of the rates,
 - (c) The procedures for modifying the rates and the frequency of modifications.
 - (3) With regard to GATT rates: The authorities empowered to conclude tariff negotiations and negotiations for modifying the consolidated rates; and the procedures required.

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(4) With regard to temporary rates:

- (a) The authorities empowered to fix increases or temporary suspensions of duties,
- (b) The existence or otherwise of a published list of these temporary rates,
- (c) Any conditions attached to these rates (checking of destination, general or special authorization, etc.),
- (d) Period of validity of temporary rates and conditions governing their repeal or renewal.

4. The delegation of the European Communities feels that these factual data are needed to help in taking a decision on base rates for non-consolidated tariffs, and also for conducting tariff negotiations.