

**MULTILATERAL TRADE  
NEGOTIATIONS  
THE URUGUAY ROUND**

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STATEMENT BY AUSTRIA

The following statement, made by the delegation of Austria at the twenty-second meeting of the Group, is circulated for the information of all participants.

As this might be the last official meeting of the Negotiating Group on GATT Articles, my delegation would like to take this opportunity to share a few thoughts with the Group.

It has been our experience over the last years, that the problems relating to the environment and its protection have not only increased in importance but have also witnessed increasing international awareness and cooperation in various international fora.

Speaking in economic terms, the environment has itself become a scarce and precious good. The demand for a sound and healthy environment as well as the costs of preserving it is increasing steadily. It is well understood, that this task of preserving the environment as well as the healing of wounds already inflicted on it, can only be achieved through close international cooperation. This cooperation has to be universal, encompassing developing and developed nations.

Had it not been so late in the actual work of this Group, we would have proposed to amend Article XX(b) of GATT by adding the terms "the environment". The provision would have read:

"necessary to protect the environment, human, animal or plant life or health".

We are convinced that there is a close relationship between trade and the environment, which will become more and more important in the years to come. Therefore, this concern should be clearly reflected in the GATT at an appropriate place. The inclusion of the notion in Article XX(b) might just be one possibility worth exploring.

Austria will work actively towards having environmental concerns included in GATT and will support future attempts to this end. We trust that other contracting parties will be supportive of this idea. Ministers in Brussels might also wish to devote some time to this problem, if they are not too busy sorting out the many problems Negotiating Groups will leave for them.

GATT SECRETARIAT

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Mr. Chairman, may we ask you to include this statement in the official record of this meeting and may we ask you to see that the main idea of this statement, namely the clear inclusion of the environment as a subject into the GATT, does not get lost in the further considerations but gains momentum.