

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

TBT/M/1
13 March 1980

Special Distribution

Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 28 JANUARY 1980

1. The Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade, established in terms of Article 13:1 of the Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade which entered into force on 1 January 1980, held its first meeting on 28 January 1980. Governments having signed the Agreement were invited to participate in the meeting.
2. The Committee elected Mr. D. Newkirk (United States) as Chairman and Mr. A. Bryden (France) as Vice-Chairman.
3. Subjects discussed:
 - A. Procedures for the participation of interested non-signatories in an observer capacity
 - B. Date and draft agenda for next meeting
 - C. Other business
- A. Procedures for the participation of interested non-signatories in an observer capacity
4. The Chairman pointed out that it had been agreed by the CONTRACTING PARTIES at their thirty-fifth session that interested non-signatory contracting parties would be able to follow the proceedings of the Committee in an observer capacity but that consultations on the procedures for such participation were still under way. At his suggestion the Committee agreed to take up this matter as the first item on the agenda for the next meeting.
 - B. Date and draft agenda for next meeting
5. The Chairman proposed that the next meeting should be held in the week of 21 April 1980, the exact date to be fixed by him in consultation with delegations.
6. The Chairman suggested that the following items be placed on the agenda of this meeting:
 - (a) Procedures for the participation of non-signatories as observers.
 - (b) General policy statements.

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- (c) Statements on implementation and administration of the Agreement (Article 15.7).
- (d) Procedures for notification (Articles 2.5.2, 2.6.1 etc.).
- (e) Avoidance of duplication (Article 13.3).
- (f) Procedures for accession of non-contracting parties (Article 15.3).
- (g) Frequency of meetings and preparations for annual review (Article 15.8).
- (h) Other business.

The Chairman further suggested that the secretariat should prepare a list of points on which information might be supplied under item (c) relating to the implementation and administration of the Agreement. In addition, the secretariat should be invited to prepare factual background papers on items (d) procedures for notification, (e) avoidance of duplication and (f) procedures for accession of non-contracting parties. The Committee took note of these suggestions and decided that the Chairman should draw up the agenda for the next meeting in consultation with delegations and circulate it three to four weeks in advance of the meeting.

C. Other business

7. The representative of the United States said, according to paragraph 1 of Annex 3 of the Agreement, the signatories to the Agreement should notify to the Chairman the names of persons ready to serve on panels. His authorities had decided to nominate Mr. Don Abelson and Mr. Bruce Wilson and would so inform the Chairman in writing. As to the derestriction of documents the customary GATT practices should in general be followed. This would mean that working documents and minutes would never be derestricted. As to panel reports and decisions pursuant to these reports his delegation's position was that these should be derestricted immediately. His authorities believed strongly that traders should be informed of panel decisions so that they could structure their activities in accordance with them. The representative of the European Communities said that his authorities were currently studying the matters raised by the representative of the United States. The Chairman concluded that the Committee noted the statements made, and would revert to any points which required its decision at its next meeting.