

# GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

---

Committee on Trade in Agriculture

PROGRAMME OF WORK

Note by the secretariat

Following the discussion in the Committee on 2 March 1983, the Chairman understands that the programme of work, based on the relevant provisions of the Ministerial Declaration as regards trade in agricultural products (L/5424), will be as follows:

1. The work of the Committee will be organized in two parts:

Exercise A - Examination will be undertaken in the light of the objectives, principles and relevant provisions of the General Agreement and also taking into account the effects of national agricultural policies, with the purpose of making appropriate recommendations. The examination will cover all measures affecting trade, market access and competition and supply in agricultural products, including those maintained under exceptions or derogations.

Exercise B - Examination will be undertaken in the light of the objectives, principles and relevant provisions of the General Agreement and also taking into account the effects of national agricultural policies, with the purpose of making appropriate recommendations. The examination will cover all measures affecting trade, including subsidies and other forms of assistance.

Documentation in general

2. The up-dating and completion of the Agricultural Documentation, the AG/DOC/- series will be continued according to already established procedures. All contracting parties are urged to take the necessary steps to have this documentation completed by 15 June 1983, at the latest. Also countries not applying measures of a type included in the specific AG/DOC/- series could make a notification to that effect, as has previously been done with respect to the MTN/3E/DOC/- series and various L/- series regarding subsidies and state trading. Annex I\* contains a list of relevant information contained in notifications that have been circulated in the inventory of non-tariff measures affecting agricultural products (AG/DOC/series) as well as under other notification obligations (notably L/- series).

---

\* Not reproduced in this document.

3. With respect to the question of reverse notifications it is agreed that the procedure already in operation for up-dating and completing the AG/DOC/- series will continue to be made use of. Under that procedure delegations may continue to submit at any time reverse notifications of measures they think should be included in that series, including notification of interest in particular measures applied to specific products by other countries or groups of countries.

Documentation for Exercise A: Examination of trade measures

4. Concerning the question of product coverage, it was noted that agricultural products have in the past been deemed to be the products falling within Chapters 1 to 24 inclusive of the CCCN, while individual contracting parties have been free to indicate differences between this definition and their own. This has proved to be a practical solution in the past, and could be applied also for the present exercise.

5. According to the Ministerial Declaration (L/5424) the matters shall "be examined in light of the objectives, principles and relevant provisions of the General Agreement and also taking into account the effects of national agricultural policies". For this examination the measures applied will be classified or grouped according to relevant GATT articles, provisions and instruments. It is emphasised, however, that any such classification of various measures affecting agricultural trade is done merely for the purpose of organizing the work of the Committee, and will be without any prejudice with respect to legal aspects of the measures notified and later examined.

6. The information on particular products, sectors and measures will as far as possible be presented according to a format shown in Annex II to this note.

7. Participants are asked to classify the information contained in their submissions according to the following six classifications.

- a) Measures taken by virtue of provisions with special reference to agriculture in the General Agreement (e.g. Articles XI:2, XVI:3, XX:(b) and (h)).

- b) Measures taken by virtue of waivers granted under Article XXV:5, or of provisions of protocols of provisional application or accession (e.g. grandfather clauses).
- c) Measures resulting from the lack of observance or application of certain provisions of the General Agreement (e.g. limited use of Article II, residual restrictions).
- d) Measures resulting from particular interpretations of certain provisions of the General Agreement (e.g. Articles III or XXIV).
- e) Measures not explicitly provided for in the General Agreement (e.g. variable levies, voluntary restraint agreement, long-term arrangements).
- f) All other measures (indicate GATT relevance, to the extent possible).

In case where a participant is unable to indicate the GATT relevance more explicitly, he may make use of only some of the classifications listed above, and may classify measures under (f) which may or may not belong under another point. Together with their submissions, participants may if they so desire include other information they judge appropriate.

Documentation for Exercise B: Examination of the operation of the General Agreement as regards subsidies, especially exports subsidies, including other forms of assistance

8. The Committee has at its disposal recent notifications made pursuant to Article XVI:1 under the notification procedures adopted in 1962 (BISD 11S/58), i.e. addenda to documents L/5102, L/5282 and L/5449 and AG/DOC/5. The information should be completed by 15 June 1983. The notifications should include information on subsidies and other forms of assistance, including any form of income or price support which operates directly or indirectly to increase exports, in particular export subsidies and all other forms of export assistance such as credit sales, tied aid, barter, draw-back, buy-back, dual-pricing, inward processing arrangements, sales against local currencies, etc.

9. With respect to the examination of the operation of Article XVI:1 second sentence and of Article XVI:3 the secretariat will provide a draft analytical index, covering references to and selected excerpts of various documentation on the drafting history of Article XVI, and relevant past cases of panels and working parties. Furthermore, participants wishing to do so, may submit in writing contributions by 15 June 1983, to be circulated to the members of the Committee well in advance of the examination, allowing necessary time for translation, processing and circulation, as well as examination of these contributions in various capitals, and subsequent preparations for the discussion in the Committee, and thus facilitate the examination of these points.

#### Organization of the examinations

##### Exercise A: Examination of trade measures

10. The Committee agrees to start the examination of trade measures affecting market access and supplies in October 1983. The exercise will be made country by country, in alphabetical or any other order, and may take the form of a question and reply procedure allowing a recording of particular views expressed by participants. The possibility of proceeding to an examination of particular measures will not be excluded. The purpose of the exercise is to try to assess the position of each country in relation to the provisions of the General Agreement. It could be expected that views might differ and it seems appropriate that the views of various contracting parties should be properly recorded. This exercise could be taken as far as possible during the October meeting and continued in March 1984.

##### Exercise B: Examination of the operation of the General Agreement as regards subsidies, especially export subsidies, including other forms of assistance

11. This examination will also commence in October 1983. An examination of the operation of Article XVI:1 first sentence, will raise the question whether the notification procedures adopted in 1962 (BISD 11S/58) are sufficient and to what extent they are complied with, with

respect to trade in agricultural products, account taken of the particular notifications made of expert assistance contained in AG/DOC/5. The examinations of the operation of Article XVI:1 second sentence and of Article XVI:3 will be based on the secretariat note and contributions of participants. It is understood that the operation of provisions other than those mentioned above may be taken up for consideration if members so wish.

#### Further meetings

3-14 October 1983. Second meeting of the Committee, at which it will proceed to a detailed examination of the information submitted. Members should be prepared to provide complementary information and explanations as required. Discussion and subsequent adoption of a progress report on the work of the Committee to the Council and the CONTRACTING PARTIES (session 1983).

5-16 March 1984. Third meeting of the Committee, at which it will complete its examination and give preliminary consideration to conclusions to be drawn.

7-10 May 1984. Fourth meeting of the Committee to consider conclusions and draft recommendations.

25-29 June 1984. Fifth meeting of the Committee to finalize recommendations and adopt a final report to the Council and the CONTRACTING PARTIES (Session 1984).

If necessary, the Committee may in addition hold a short meeting at the end of June 1983 to consider technical matters, such as problems related to the establishment and distribution of documentation. If the experience in October 1983 indicates that a ten days' meeting in March 1984 may not provide sufficient time, another meeting could be held some time between October 1983 and March 1984. It is understood that all dates are tentative and subject to confirmation.

Country or group of countries \_\_\_\_\_

Product CCCN No	MEASURES AFFECTING EXPORT						MEASURES AFFECTING IMPORT							Reference to GATT documents (in which measures were notified)	Reference to GATT provisions (and classifications as in para. 7 a-f in Spec(83)15)
	Subsidies	Credit non-commercial	Other forms of assistance	Charges, prohibitions and other restrictions	State-trading enterprises	Other	Tariffs, bindings <sup>1</sup>	Levies and other charges	Licensing and import restrictions (quotas, seasonal restrictions, minimum price)	Sanitary and phytosanitary regulations	Marketing standards, packaging and labelling regulations	State-trading enterprises	Other		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
10.01 Wheat				Quotas (IWC)	ST		0-7% (2 out of 3 sub-tariff lines B)		Licensing + quotas (suspended)					L/5455  Schedule XL	Art. XVII (f)  Art. II (c,f)  Art. XXh (a)
10.02 Rye		Blended credit				Bilateral supply agreement with country X				Sanitary				L/-  AG/DCC	Art. XXV:5 waiver (b)  (e)  Art. XX(b) (a)  (e)

<sup>1</sup> If there is more than one sub-tariff line within CCCN tariff, indicate minimum and maximum tariff rates and number of sub-tariff lines bound, if any.