COUNCIL

TRADE POLICY REVIEW MECHANISM

Tunisia

Arrangements for Review Meetings

Communication from the Chairman of the Council

1. In pursuance of the CONTRACTING PARTIES' Decision of 12 April 1989 concerning the Trade Policy Review Mechanism, a special Council meeting is scheduled for 22-23 May 1994 to conduct the review of the trade policies and practices of Tunisia, (GATT/AIR/3594). This communication sets out arrangements concerning the review meeting. In this connection, attention is also drawn to the note on procedures circulated on 30 April 1993.2

   (i) Questions in writing in advance of the meeting

2. Contracting parties may give advance notice in writing of the points they wish to be raised at the review meeting. This will not limit in any way the scope of discussions at special Council meetings.3 It would be appreciated if any such points could be in the hands of the Secretariat by Wednesday, 15 June. These will be made available to the Council at the beginning of the meeting.

   (ii) Discussants

3. The Decision establishing the Trade Policy Review Mechanism provides that, in consultation with the contracting party or parties under review, the Chairman of the Council may choose discussants who, in their personal capacity, will introduce the discussions in the review body.

4. Following such consultations, Mr. Jean Saint-Jacques and Mr. Mehmet S. Onaner will act as discussants for Tunisia. Documents summarizing the main points to be raised by the discussants will be circulated in advance of the meeting.

1BISD 36S/403.
2L/7208.
3C/M/236.
(iii) Structure of the meetings

5. Trade policy reviews undertaken at special Council meetings cover four broad headings:

(a) appreciation of the full range of the contracting party’s trade policies and practices;

(b) relevant background: wider economic and developmental needs and the external environment;

(c) impact of the contracting party’s trade policies and practices on the functioning of the multilateral trading system; and

(d) general comments by way of assessment and evaluation.

As noted in L/7208, the discussion on the second morning will be based on a number of main themes identified by the Chairman, discussants and Secretariat with the country under review after the opening meeting.

(iv) Documentation and press arrangements

6. The reports submitted by the country under review and the Secretariat are contained in the following documents:

- C/RM/G/47: Report by the Government of Tunisia
- C/RM/S/47: Tunisia: Report by the Secretariat

7. The press embargo for the review of Tunisia will end at 13.00 gmt (3 p.m. Geneva time) on Thursday, 23 June 1994.

(v) Minutes

8. Minutes of the meetings, drawn up by the Secretariat, will be circulated promptly after the meeting. They will subsequently be published together with the report by the Government and by the Secretariat.

(vi) Answers in writing by the contracting party under review after the special Council meeting

9. In the course of the discussion at the review meeting, the contracting party under review may indicate that it intends to provide supplementary information in writing on specific points raised during the session. Upon receipt, the Secretariat will circulate this information to all contracting parties. Such information will not be reflected in the minutes of the meetings.

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4C/W/607.