TRADE POLICY REVIEW MECHANISM

Trade Policy Review of the European Communities

Communication from the Discussants

Pursuant to the revised procedures for review meetings circulated in the communication from the Chairman of the Council dated 30 April 1993 (L/7208), following are outlines of the main points to be raised by Ambassadors Celso Amorim (Brazil) and Don Kenyon (Australia) at the review of the European Communities to be held on 17-18 May 1993.

It is recalled that discussants act in their personal capacity.

(a) Ambassador Celso Amorim

1. Brief assessment of developments since the first TPR held in 1991.

2. The rôle of the European Communities in the multilateral trading system. Contradiction between support for a strong and institutionalized system and organization of foreign trade relations through a growing number of preferential arrangements.

3. The impact of the European Communities’ trade policy on developing countries through the evolution of the above preferential structure and the effects on particular sectors.

4. The feasibility of sustaining, in the long run, a strategy that avoids, or may impede, real market restructuring through protection and/or subsidization of many economic sectors at the same time. This will be elaborated more in the sense of a question.

5. Reference to some specific measures.

(b) Ambassador Don Kenyon

6. As the world’s largest trader, the European Communities holds a central place in the GATT system, and its trade policy and practices have profound and far-reaching effects on all other GATT contracting parties.

7. The European Communities has a very extensive network of preferential trading arrangements which sit oddly with the Communities’ key role in a multilateral trading system based on non-discrimination.

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8. The liberalization of intra-Community trade in goods and services which has followed the Single European Act of 1987 is undoubtedly of great potential benefit to the European Communities and the world as a whole.

9. Significant sectoral problems persist in the European Communities which are impeding access to the European Communities’ market and limiting the contribution the European Communities can make to world trade growth.

10. As well as analysing these themes, Ambassador Kenyon intends to explore any tensions between them. He hopes that this will be a basis for a lively and stimulating debate on the European Communities’ trade policies and practices.