
It is suggested that the Chairman of the Working Party report orally to the Heads of delegations in the following terms, subject to such changes as may be made by the Working Party.

In accordance with its instructions from the Heads of delegations, the Working Party considered a number of procedural questions that needed to be solved in order to permit the negotiations to proceed as rapidly as possible.

Exchange of Consolidated Lists of Offers

The Working Party considered that the procedures laid down by the Contracting Parties for the exchange of consolidated offer lists were sufficiently precise and that it was not necessary to recommend that the Heads of delegations adopt any further rules in this respect. In view of the fact, however, that not all delegations were in a position to submit consolidated offers immediately and in view of the fact that certain delegations were forced by circumstances to omit from their initial consolidated lists offers to certain countries with whom they expect eventually to negotiate, the Working Party recommended that each delegation submitting such an offer indicate the countries to whom they were willing that their lists be distributed. The delegations which have submitted consolidated offer lists, and the delegations who have received those lists in each case are set forth in document Spec/20/56/Rev.1.

Membership of the Tariff Negotiations Committee

The Working Party considered that, as contemplated by the negotiating rules adopted by the Contracting Parties, determination of membership in the Tariff Negotiations Committee would automatically consist of those delegations which have submitted consolidated offer lists. They therefore recommend that the countries whose names appear in Column I of Spec/20/56/Rev.1 be considered members of the Tariff Negotiations Committee and that, as additional participating countries submit their consolidated offers lists, that they be automatically added to the membership of the Tariff Negotiations Committee.

The Working Party also recommends the following procedure for determining the distribution of consolidated offer lists received hereafter. Upon the receipt of such a list the secretariat will determine from the delegation submitting the list the names of the delegations to whom the list may be
distributed. This list will be included in a note which will be sent by the
secretariat to all delegations. Each delegation named in the list shall
promptly notify the secretariat if it has any objection to that country re-
ceiving its own offer list. When such a notice has not been received within
twenty-four hours the new list will be sent to each of the countries named
and their lists will be given to the country submitting the new list.

Status of the European Coal and Steel Community

The Working Party noted the statements of the Member States of the
European Coal and Steel Community that the High Authority of the ECSC is
authorized to negotiate on their behalf with Austria with respect to the
types of special steels included in the common market. The Working Party
also noted the request of the Member States that the High Authority be
accorded by the Conference the necessary facilities to enable it to carry
out this responsibility. The Working Party considered that the only action
necessary at this stage was to determine the nature of the participation by
the representatives of the High Authority in the work of the Tariff
Negotiations Committee and also to determine the extent to which the High
Authority should be included in the distribution of consolidated lists of
offers and the extent to which the offer lists of the High Authority should
be distributed to other participants. If any specific problems should arise
in the future they could be dealt with directly by the Tariff Negotiations
Committee.

The Working Party recommends that the Tariff Negotiations Committee invite
the representatives of the High Authority to participate without vote in both
ordinary and executive sessions of the Committee as necessary to carry out
the mandate entrusted to it by the Member States.

With respect to the distribution of offer lists, it was decided, with
the agreement of the parties concerned, that the consolidated offer list of
Austria should be given to the representatives of the High Authority and
vice versa. The Working Party also considered a suggestion that the Member
States be authorized to reveal to the representatives of the High Authority
those portions of offer lists received by them which are pertinent to the
mandate of the High Authority and that the offer list of the High Authority
be distributed to all participants who have qualified for the receipt of offer
lists in general. It was decided, however, to defer consideration of this
proposal, and the Working Party suggests that the Heads of delegations
recommend that the Tariff Negotiations Committee consider it as one of its
first orders of business.

Rules of Procedure

The Working Party considered the rules of procedure that might be
adopted by the Tariff Negotiations Committee in its deliberations. The
Working Party recommends that the Heads of delegations transmit for adoption
by the Tariff Negotiations Committee the proposed Rules of Procedure contained
in Spec/16/56/Rev.1.
In connexion with the proposed Rule A, one member called attention to the problem that may arise if the offer list of a participant is under review and if the exchange of offer lists between the country concerned and a member of the Committee has not yet taken place. In those circumstances one member of a prospective negotiation might be placed at an unfair disadvantage.

The Working Party has not proposed a rule of procedure to meet this problem. They suggest, however, that if the Tariff Negotiations Committee considers that the problem is such as to require that attendance at an executive session be more limited than the membership of the Committee, the Committee would have difficulty in dealing with individual cases unless there were a rule of procedure to authorize it to take special action in such cases. The Working Party has, therefore, drafted the following text of a paragraph which the Tariff Negotiations Committee may wish to consider adding to Rule A:

"On request of a participating contracting party which has not received the consolidated offer lists of all members of the Committee and whose own offer list is to be examined by the Committee, the Committee may impose such limitations on attendance at the executive session concerned as it considers necessary."