
The terms of reference of the Agriculture Committee provide for an examination of all the elements of agricultural trade and production policies to be taken into consideration, with the object of "preparing the way for subsequent consideration of positive solutions which could be mutually accepted by all contracting parties concerned". Subject to further information which will still prove necessary, it may be considered that the Committee has reached the second stage of its work programme which basically consists in identifying the main problems affecting international trade in agricultural products.

In the light of the Committee's terms of reference, the problems must be placed in the context of trade and production policies.

Procedures for urgent cases were already laid down at the twenty-fourth session.

The problems can be identified only in the light of factual data in two key areas: first, the international market of the various agricultural products, especially those which show instability and second, the production policies followed by the contracting parties.

As regards the international market, consideration should be given to the fact that, side by side with open markets, there exist markets reserved for certain suppliers and markets on which non-commercial deliveries are made. The measures put into force by the contracting parties both for imports and exports must also be analyzed and assessed in their effects.

In this way, it will be possible to identify the economic problems arising for international markets and the measures and machinery to be considered in the endeavour to find mutually acceptable solutions to these problems.

An assessment of production policies is not possible unless an examination is made of their underlying motives, their elements and their effects on the market. A general examination must necessarily be accompanied by an examination of the specific aspects connected with specific products.

In this way it will be possible to identify the aspects of production policies which must be considered in the endeavour to find mutually acceptable solutions to the problems of international trade in agricultural products.

It remains to decide on the suitable procedure for the Agriculture Committee to examine the two fields at the same time.