The Agreement on Import Licensing Procedures entered into force on 1 January 1980. Since then, the Committee has concentrated on improving transparency with regard to import licensing procedures applied by signatory countries. In this connection, information was made available under the provisions of the Agreement concerning (a) national laws, regulations and administrative procedures, (b) publications containing rules concerning licensing procedures, lists of products subject to licensing requirements and data on quotas administered by means of licensing, and (c) public notice of the shares in quotas allocated among supplying countries. The Committee discussed this information with a view to obtaining further clarification where necessary on the steps taken by signatories to bring their administrative procedures and practices in conformity with the relevant provisions of the Agreement.

The Committee completed the first biennial review of the implementation and operation of the Agreement called for in Article 5.5 in November 1981. It agreed to keep the question of implementation and operation of the Agreement on its agenda in order to deal with any specific questions addressed to delegations in this connexion. The results of the review were reflected in document LIC/5 and in the minutes of the fifth meeting of the Committee (LIC/M/5).

The hope was expressed in the Committee that other contracting parties, which had not as yet done so, would adhere to the Agreement.