The following note has been received from the delegation of the European Communities.

1. The question of procedures for negotiations on non-tariff measures not dealt with multilaterally has been discussed on a number of occasions in the Group "Non-Tariff Measures" without any decision having been reached yet.

2. This situation seems essentially attributable to the fact that most delegations are in some uncertainty as to the nature and number of measures that could be the subject of these procedures.

3. In the opinion of the Community, these procedures could apply to measures presenting the following characteristics:

   (a) measure applied by one country or a few countries;

   (b) measure of interest to one or several exporting countries;

   (c) measure which does not seem, at first sight, susceptible of a multilateral solution e.g. interpretative note, code, etc.) because it is essentially a matter of abolishing or adjusting national legislation or practice, not of clarifying or broadening existing international rules or of formulating new rules.

4. This procedure should not, of course, cover measures currently under examination in sub-groups of the Group "Non-Tariff Measures", nor those that it has been proposed to add in a second list of measures, nor those coming under the procedures established by the Group "Agriculture".

5. The European Communities concur with the objectives of a flexible and transparent approach in this area.
6. A first step towards developing these procedures might be for interested delegations to present notifications concerning the measures applied by one or more participants in the negotiations and which, in their view, are not susceptible of multilateral solutions. The notification might comprise:

- A brief description of the measure\(^1\), possibly with an indication of the products affected, where appropriate;

- the type of action that the notifying country would like to see taken by the country applying the measure.

7. The GATT secretariat would transmit the notification to the country or countries concerned, and would distribute the notifications to all participating countries.

8. This notification process would help the Group and delegations to define the scope and nature of the problems, and to decide in full knowledge of the facts what procedures seem best suited for seeking solutions.

9. It would no doubt be useful to fix a starting date for this notification process. Of course, any participant would be free to present a new notification at any time. But when the GATT secretariat has received a sufficiently representative collection of notifications, the Group could again revert to this matter and decide how to proceed further.

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\(^1\)A detailed description would not be necessary if already included in the inventory of non-tariff measures (MTN/38/1 to 5).