Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade

FIRST THREE-YEAR REVIEW OF THE OPERATION
AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AGREEMENT

Proposals by the Nordic Countries

The following proposals, to be discussed at the first three-year review, are being circulated at the request of the Swedish delegation on behalf of the Nordic countries.

The Committee has collected information on existing international standards (TBT/W/45) in order to review and promote the implementation of the Articles 2.2. and 2.3. of the Agreement. In this connection the representatives of IEC and ISO have stated that their organizations are prepared to give priority to such work which the Committee considers to be of special importance for removing technical barriers to trade.

A subsidiary body to the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, Government Officials Responsible for Standardization Policies (ECE/STAND) has already prepared and published a list giving priorities for international and European standardization work (ECE/STAND/20).

In order to promote the implementation of the Articles 2.2. and 2.3. of the Agreement, it is proposed that the Committee decide to prepare a list of subjects for international standardization which are especially relevant for removing technical barriers to trade. This list should then be presented to the relevant international standardizing bodies requesting them to grant priority in their work to the topics included in the list. The ECE Standardization List could serve as a model, but only as a model, because all the aims and principles of that list are not fully applicable for the implementation of the TBT-Agreement.

Natural sources of subjects which might be included in the list are the TBT-notifications and the GATT Inventory on TBTs.
The work program for preparing the list - which could be called the GATT Standardization List - is proposed to include the following steps:

1. The Secretariat prepares an analysis of the products and other subjects covered by the notifications and the inventory. The result is presented to the Committee.

2. The Committee adopts criteria for including subjects in the List.

3. The Parties are requested to submit proposals for subjects to be included in the List.

4. The Secretariat compiles a draft List based on the proposals received.

5. The Committee decides which subjects in the draft List shall be included in the final List.

6. The List as adopted by the Committee is presented to the relevant international standardizing bodies requesting priority for the subjects included.

7. The international standardizing bodies are requested to present progress reports to the Committee on relevant standardization work as well as subsequent reports on the implementation of the relevant international standards on national level by the Parties.

8. The List is updated every three years.