COMMUNICATION FROM FINLAND

The following communication has been received from Finland, on behalf of the Nordic countries, with the request that it be circulated to members of the Committee.

The Councils of the ISO and the IEC have decided to begin a consensus-building process immediately for a draft Code of Good Practice for Standardization. In Finland's view, the Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade should enter into a dialogue with the ISO/IEC while their consensus-building process is still at an early stage in order to try to ensure that the ISO/IEC draft Code evolves in a manner that is fully consistent with the Code of Good Practice that has been negotiated in the context of the Uruguay Round negotiations on the Agreement (1991) on Technical Barriers to Trade.

Finland therefore proposes that the following draft decision should be considered and adopted by the Committee at its meeting on 1 November 1991.

Draft Decision of the Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade

"The Committee takes note of the decisions in October 1991 of the ISO and IEC Councils to begin the consensus-building process for an ISO/IEC Code of Good Practice for Standardization. The Committee recognizes the valuable contributions ISO/IEC has made in achieving the objectives of the Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade and the importance of the co-operation of the private sector standards community worldwide to the success of this Agreement. The Committee emphasizes the importance it attaches to a continuous dialogue taking place between GATT and the ISO/IEC on this matter, as took place in connection with the adoption of mutually consistent Definitions for use in the TBT Agreement and the ISO/IEC. The Committee notes that ensuring the two Codes in question are mutually supportive would contribute considerably to furthering the objectives of the Agreement (1991) on Technical Barriers to Trade. The Committee decides that it will, upon completion of the ISO/IEC Code, evaluate its implications for the operation of the Agreement (1991) on Technical Barriers to Trade and take whatever further action it may consider appropriate at that time."