Communication from Austria

The following communication, dated 19 November 1990, has been received from the Permanent Delegation of Austria.

The present stage of bilateral negotiations with other participants does not enable the Austrian Permanent Delegation to GATT to finalize offers with regard to the bulk of requests put to it in the NTM- and NRBP-fields. Equally, Austria has received few, if any, firm assurances as to NTM-requests put to other participants.

In order to keep participants and the secretariat informed about the present state of Austria’s negotiations, however, I should like to make the following communications concerning liberalization measures envisaged by Austria.

As from 1 January 1991 the exports of certain products of the forestry sector will be fully liberalized. The export licenses, which are requested, will be eliminated. This measure will apply to the following products:

- 4401.10 fuel wood, in logs, in billets, in twigs, in fagots or in similar forms;
- 4401.21 wood in chips or particles, coniferous;
- 4401.30C saw-mill rejects;
- 4403 wood in the rough, whether or not stripped of bark or sapwood, or roughly squared;
- 4404.10A split poles, pickets and stakes of wood, pointed but not sawn lengthwise, coniferous;
- 4404.20A split poles, pickets and stakes of wood, pointed but not sawn lengthwise, non-coniferous.
Another measure already put into force at the request of Colombia and Israel in the context of NG6 concerns the modification of a liberalization of the import regime for cut carnations.

The following new regulations for imports of cut carnation flowers are in force from 16 April to 30 November 1990:

- imports of cut carnation flowers from all countries are permitted;
- no import authorization is necessary;
- the regulation concerning the obligation to present a certification that the flowers are not infected with carnation tortrix of the varieties tortrix pronubana Hb (syn. casoeceimorpha pronubana Hb) and epichoristodes acerbella remain unchanged;
- before clearance by the customs authorities a control by the Austrian plant protection board is necessary.

Internal considerations concerning some other NTM-measures maintained by Austria are at present at an advanced stage. There is a good chance e.g. that licensing requirements for penicillin and antibiotics could be abolished by 1 March 1991 (requested by i.a. USA). Austria would welcome early written responses to Austria's request or at least reports on the present stage of their consideration were forthcoming.

As to Austria's tariff offers in NG1, NG3 and NG6, I formally request that Austria's "Improved Tariff Proposal" of 16 October 1990 and the tariff part of the Austrian Agricultural Offer of 26 October 1990 are to be considered as the Austrian contribution to these Negotiating Groups. These offers should also be taken into account in any statistical assessments proposed for NG1, 3, 5 and 6.

I request the circulation of this communication to participants in market access negotiations.