Group of Negotiations on Services

PROGRAMME FOR THE INITIAL PHASE OF NEGOTIATIONS

Report by the Chairman

Discussions in the Group have focussed on the initial phase of negotiations and on identifying a number of elements which should be addressed in 1987 in conformity with the negotiating objectives. These elements are listed below. It is understood that this list is non-exhaustive, and that no particular significance attaches to the way in which the items are formulated; there will be opportunity to give greater precision to their content in due course. It is also understood that neither the formulation of the items nor the order in which they are listed prejudge the relative importance of any of them, or imply any ordering for negotiating purposes.

Negotiating objectives

"Negotiations in this area shall aim to establish a multilateral framework of principles and rules for trade in services, including elaboration of possible disciplines for individual sectors, with a view to expansion of such trade under conditions of transparency and progressive liberalization and as a means of promoting economic growth of all trading partners and the development of developing countries. Such framework shall respect the policy objectives of national laws and regulations applying to services and shall take into account the work of relevant international organizations."

Elements

- Definitional and statistical issues
- Broad concepts on which principles and rules for trade in services, including possible disciplines for individual sectors, might be based
- Coverage of the multilateral framework for trade in services
- Existing international disciplines and arrangements
- Measures and practices contributing to or limiting the expansion of trade in services, including specifically any barriers perceived by individual participants, to which the conditions of transparency and progressive liberalization might be applicable

It is understood that at the first meeting, a general debate structured around the above elements will take place. A periodic overview of progress would take place. Such general debate and overview should, inter alia, facilitate determination of the technical support to be provided by relevant international organizations. There will be a stock-taking at the end of 1987 in order to determine how to carry forward the negotiating programme.
SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS FOR 1987

There will be a total of twelve days of meetings in the first half of 1987.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Meeting dates</th>
<th>Agenda</th>
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<tr>
<td>23 - 25 February</td>
<td>General debate, elements</td>
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Following meetings

elements