

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

Spec (74)2
27 February 1974

Multilateral Trade Negotiations

DRAFT

GROUP 3(e) - POINTS RELATING TO PROGRAMME OF WORK

Note by the Secretariat

1. Group 3(e), established by the Trade Negotiations Committee on 7 February 1974, met from 25 to 27 February 1974. It had before it the Programme of Work adopted by the Committee (MTN/2) as well as the following documents prepared by the secretariat:

Consideration of Technical Work to be Undertaken (MTN/3E/1)

Check List of Basic Documentation (MTN/3E/W/1) and

Sanitary and Phyto-sanitary Regulations (MTN/3E/W/2).

The Group agreed to organize its discussion on the basis of document MTN/3E/1.

Work under paragraph 3 of document MTN/2

A. Import measures

2. Tariffs. It was the wish of the Group that the detailed listings referred to in COM.AG/W/68/Add.1 be updated for BTN Chapters 1 to 24 so as to show tariff rates and their status as of the latest date possible, preferably 1 January 1974, and import values by tariff line for the latest year possible, preferably 1973, for the countries listed under A(2) in MTN/3E/W/1.

3. It was also the wish of the Group that in so doing, account should be taken of the need of including analytical and technical work relating to tariffs under the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP), as provided for by footnote 1 to the Programme of Work. Before deciding on the details of how it would proceed with this particular problem, the Group would wish to take account of the procedures developed by Group 3(a).

4. Quantitative restrictions. The Group agreed that the information contained in documents COM.AG/W/90/Rev.1 and COM.AG/W/79/Rev.1 should be updated so as to show the position as of 1 January 1974.
5. All participants to the negotiations listed under A(3)(a) and A(3)(c) in MTN/3E/W/1 are therefore requested to supply to the secretariat the required information by not later than 1 April 1974. This information should include the reasons for the maintenance or modification of the restrictions notified.
6. The Group invited all other participants to the negotiations to supply similar information to the secretariat as soon as possible.
7. On the basis of the information received, the secretariat could issue a new summary table to replace COM.AG/W/92.
8. State trading. It was understood that notifications pursuant to Article XVII:4 will continue as heretofore.
9. Variable levies and other special charges. The Group agreed that the information contained in documents COM.AG/W/68/Add.3 and COM.AG/W/84 should be updated so as to cover the year 1973 in respect of all participants where such measures exist, whether or not they are being applied.

All these participants are therefore requested to supply the required information to the secretariat by not later than 1 April 1974.
10. Health and sanitary regulations notified. The Group agreed that the information contained in document COM.AG/W/68/Add.4 should be updated so as to show the position as of 1 January 1974.
11. All participants whose measures are listed are requested to notify the secretariat by not later than 1 April 1974 of any modifications in the measures, giving or confirming reasons for maintaining or modifying the measures.

12. Participants wishing to notify measures not yet listed are invited to do so. The new notifications will be issued with the consent, and comments if any, of the country concerned.

13. Various non-tariff barriers. The Group agreed that document COM.AG/W/71 should be updated so as to show the position as of 1 January 1974.

The same requests and invitations apply as in 11 and 12 above.

B. Export measures

14. Inventory of measures and mechanisms influencing exports. The Group agreed to update and complete document COM.AG/W/81 (which itself is the updated version of Spec(69)9/Rev.1 to 15, and Spec(69)136).

15. Participants are therefore requested to supply or complete data for all missing years up to and including 1973, by 1 April 1974 and to complete this information in respect of export measures (applied or applicable) not covered by the earlier documents. Reasons for introducing, maintaining or modifying the measures should be given. A list of export measures existing on 1 January 1974 should be given, whether or not they were actually being applied on that date.

16. Subsidies. It was understood that notifications pursuant to Article XVI:1 would continue as heretofore.

C. Production measures

17. Self-sufficiency ratios: (Spec(69)35/Rev.1)

Prices received by producers: (Spec(69)36/Rev.1)

The secretariat will update these documents, with the help of delegations where necessary.

18. Agricultural Policies: Members of the Group are invited to supply the secretariat with statements on their present agricultural policies by not later than 1 April 1974. It is understood that these statements might inter alia be based on information and data supplied to other bodies and should cover objectives (economic, social, etc.), the means employed to attain them, and reasons for these; and relevant assessments.

D. Synthesis

19. In order to present an overall picture of the situation as regards agriculture in individual countries and its relation to the economy as a whole, each delegation participating in work of Group 3(e) is requested to supply the following data by 1 April 1974:

I. Area and population

- (a) Total area utilized for agriculture (absolute figure and percentage of country's total area)
- (b) Utilization: percentage of agricultural land (i) under crops, (ii) under pastures, (iii) other (including area set aside)
- (c) Area (in addition to above) for potential utilization as agricultural land (absolute figure and percentage of area utilized for agriculture)
- (d) Percentage of total active population engaged in agriculture

II. Production

- (a) Main agricultural commodities produced, giving approximate tonnages
- (b) Share of GNP derived from agriculture (percentage)

III. Exports

- (a) Main agricultural commodities (including processed products) exported, giving approximate tonnages
- (b) Share of agricultural products in total exports

IV. Imports

- (a) Main agricultural commodities (including processed products) imported, giving approximate tonnages,
- (b) Share of agricultural products in total imports.

20. In order to facilitate the up-dating of the information relating to the various products which one or more delegations suggested for inclusion in the work under paragraph 4 of document MTN/2, but which were not so included at the present time, members of the Group are urged to give priority attention to their notifications concerning these products (see paragraph 29 below).

21. A delegation said that the documentation implicitly contained information on certain topics such as licensing, standards, valuation for customs purposes, export subsidies, and suggested that to make these matters more explicit the secretariat might prepare an inventory of these specific topics so as to enable the Group to consider at an appropriate time how and when they might be dealt with.

Work under paragraph 4 of document MTN/2

22. The Group noted that the work to be done by it under this paragraph was the "collection of the data for each of the last few years and carrying out an analysis of recent changes in production, consumption and supply of and demand for agricultural products; identification of the problems which result for world agricultural markets and of their significance for an approach to the negotiations in the agricultural sector".

23. The Group agreed that the work would cover the following products in the first instance: wheat; maize; butter and skimmed milk powder; sugar; cattle and chilled and frozen meat thereof; soya; and, to the extent that data are available, wine.

24. It was noted that the secretariat might in addition prepare data on certain fruits and vegetables for which statistics were readily available.

25. The Group noted that this list of products had been established for the sole purpose of the work under paragraph 4 of document MTN/2; that it remained open-ended; and that it had no significance whatever as regards the product coverage of the negotiations, i.e., that the fact that a product may not have been included in this work in no way meant that it would not be included in the negotiations.

26. The Group agreed that the following series of data should be collected for this work: production; opening stocks, imports; consumption; exports; closing stocks; world or international prices; domestic and support prices.

27. The Group agreed that the data to be collected would cover each of the years (or crop years) 1968, 1969, 1970, 1971, 1972 and to the extent possible, 1973.

28. The Group noted that while the secretariat, in order to compile statistics on as global a level as possible, would make every effort to avail itself of existing data, including data from specialized bodies, the co-operation of governments would be required for certain series, in particular as regards support and domestic prices, it was agreed that governments would supply these data by 15 March 1974.

29. Several delegations, while accepting the consensus as regards present coverage and the open-ended nature of the list of products, expressed the wish that certain other products might also be covered. Reference in this connexion was made to inter alia: certain cereals (e.g., rice, barley), certain fruits and vegetables (e.g., citrus, grapes, apples, strawberries, tomatoes,

onions), certain dairy products and eggs; certain meats and meat products (e.g., poultry, preserved meats); certain oilseeds and products (e.g., rapeseed, sunflowerseed; oilcakes).

30. It was agreed that in subsequent discussions under this item delegations would be free to draw on their own experience as regards the products discussed or related products.

Work under paragraph 15 of document MTN/2

31. The Group reaffirmed its agreement that the inventory of health and sanitary regulations notified should be updated and completed where necessary (see paragraphs 10 to 12 above).

32. The Group requested the secretariat to prepare a note on the status of work on the draft code on standards drawn up by the Committee on Trade in Industrial Products. The note would also address itself to the question of establishing a possible conceptual framework for work in the area of health and sanitary regulations.

33. The Group invited the secretariat to get in touch with competent persons in bodies specialized in this field in order to discuss the work that could usefully be done if and when a sub-group of experts were established by the Group.

Other work by Group 3(e) in co-operation with other groups

34. It was the general feeling in the Group that it would be desirable to await the results of the initial meetings of the other groups concerned, which the Group would then consider at a future meeting.

Other matters

35. The Group agreed to hold its next meeting on 2 April 1974.