

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

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22 November 1985

DECLARATION MADE BY THE
REPRESENTATIVE OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
IN THE SENIOR OFFICIALS' GROUP, 13 NOVEMBER 1985

The text of the following declaration made on 13 November 1985 is circulated at the request of the Commission of the European Communities.

The mandate of the Senior Officials' Group as decided by the Special Session of the CONTRACTING PARTIES is to further the preparatory process for the new round of multilateral trade negotiations and to report to the CONTRACTING PARTIES at their November Session so as to put them in a position to decide on the establishment of a Preparatory Committee.

In the Community's view, the Senior Officials' Group substantive discussions have responded fully to this mandate and have covered a wide range of issues relating to the new round. They have demonstrated the fact that no-one opposes the principle of the launching of the new round and that there is broad convergence regarding the global objectives of such negotiations, which should aim at strengthening the multilateral trading system and promoting further the expansion and liberalization of world trade. During the substantive discussions there was also an emerging convergence on a broad range of issues for inclusion in the new round as well as on the specific objectives for negotiations on these issues.

As far as the Group's report is concerned, the Community stands by the agreed conclusions of the Senior Officials' Group on 8 November and will not depart from them. The draft report should therefore include a short factual introduction, a list of matters taken up in the Senior Officials' Group and an overview section covering concluding observations. In the Community's view the concluding observations should cover the points mentioned in the preceding paragraph together with an agreed recommendation for a decision of the CONTRACTING PARTIES and at least a limited number of agreed options for their consideration.

The discussions on the draft report have however shown a regrettable general tendency to reopen and misrepresent after the event the realities of the Group's substantive discussions. All this has hampered the Group's work.

The Community wishes to express its disapproval of these developments. It is not prepared to be a party to such a collective destruction of the GATT's working methods. For this reason, the Community entirely reserves its position regarding both the substance of this report and the methods of work imposed on the Group.