

TARIFFS AND TRADE

Working Group on Domestically Prohibited Goods and Other Hazardous Substances

FIRST MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP

ON EXPORT OF DOMESTICALLY PROHIBITED GOODS AND OTHER HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES

1. The Working Group on Export of Domestically Prohibited Goods and Other Hazardous Substances held its first meeting on 19 September 1989 under the chairmanship of Ambassador John Sankey (United Kingdom). It adopted the agenda proposed in GATT/AIR/2826.
2. The delegation of Nigeria referred to the proposal submitted by it (together with the delegations of Cameroon, Cote d'Ivoire, Sri Lanka and Zaire) (MTN.GNG/W/18), on the main elements and product coverage of any agreement or legal instrument that might be negotiated in GATT. Upon further examination by his Government, a revised proposal might be presented at the next meeting.
3. Many delegations, referring to the mandate of the Group expressed the view that only after having examined the work of other international organizations in order to assess trade-related aspects that were not adequately covered, would the Group be in a position to determine whether and how to proceed with a discussion of a framework for disciplines in GATT. Several delegations suggested that the secretariat update the document, Activities of Other Organizations in Related Fields (L/6459). It was also suggested that the Group examine how GATT Articles and rules relate to these activities and to the problems in the area of domestically prohibited goods. One delegate stressed that the purpose of the Group was not to limit itself only to areas not covered by other organizations but to concern itself with all areas where international trade was involved.
4. The Group took note of these comments. It noted that the secretariat was in the process of updating document L/6459 and was also preparing a Synoptic Table listing the trade-related provisions in selected international legal instruments dealing with domestically prohibited goods and other hazardous substances.
5. In light of the Group's mandate to address trade-related aspects having regard to the work of other international organizations, the Working Group agreed to invite, as observers, at its next meeting, representatives from the United Nations Environmental Programme, the Food and Agricultural Organizations, the World Health Organization, the United Nations Secretariat, the International Labour Organisation, the United Nations Centre for Transnational Corporations, and the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development.

6. The Working Group invited delegations to notify relevant national laws and regulations so that the secretariat could update the information submitted by contracting parties in 1985 and 1986 contained in the documents DPG/Notif.85.1-13 and DPG/Notif.86.2-8.

7. The next two meetings of the Working Group will be held on 19 October and 28 November 1989.