

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON

RESTRICTED

Spec(90)3

2 February 1990

TARIFFS AND TRADE

Working Group on Domestically Prohibited Goods
and Other Hazardous Substances

THIRD MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON
EXPORT OF DOMESTICALLY PROHIBITED GOODS AND OTHER HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES

1. The Working Group on Domestically Prohibited Goods and Other Hazardous Substances held its third meeting on 28 November 1989 under the chairmanship of Ambassador John Sankey (United Kingdom). It adopted the agenda proposed in GATT/AIR/2866.
2. Several delegations noted that considerable study and work on the issues contained in the proposals MTN.GNG/W/18 and DPG/W/5 were proceeding in their capitals, therefore they were not in the position to offer any detailed comments.
3. Regarding the work of other international organizations, summarized in the two Secretariat papers, DPG/W/4/Rev.1 and L/6459/Rev.1, it was agreed to include the work of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) on radioactive wastes in the papers.
4. Representatives from four international organizations, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the World Health Organization (WHO), and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) were present as observers. (Statements from the observer from UNEP and from FAO are summarized in the Appendix). It was decided to invite, as an observer, a representative from the IAEA to the next meeting of the Group. At the suggestion of the representative from WHO, it was agreed to include provisions from the Convention on Narcotics and Psychotropic Substances into the documentation prepared by the secretariat.
5. The Group took note of the statements made. One delegate noted that his delegation had submitted a notification of its legislation and practices regarding therapeutic goods, veterinary chemicals, and hazardous wastes. He added that detailed copies of the legislation would be circulated to Parties at a later time. Members of the Working Group were reminded to provide the Secretariat with initial or updated notifications of national laws and regulations as had been agreed at the first meeting of the Group.
6. The Chairman emphasized that, in view of the tight deadline for the completion of the work, the Group should expedite the examination of the proposals made at the respective national capitals. He also requested that delegations circulate additional proposals in advance of the next meeting or orally present any such submissions at that time.
7. The next meeting of the Working Group would be 12 February 1990.

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APPENDIX

1. The representative from FAO stated that the Governing Conference had agreed unanimously to incorporate the proposed amendments of prior informed consent into its Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides and authorized the Director-General to establish a programme, jointly with UNEP, to implement the PIC procedures. He added that the Conference also expressed concern regarding the present voluntary and non-binding nature of the Code. It proposed that the Secretariat explore the possibility of establishing a legally binding instrument and report on progress to the next Conference.

2. The representative from UNEP stated that, along with the FAO, it had a mandate to begin implementing the procedures of prior informed consent with regard to chemicals and pesticides. He noted that both organizations had written to all governments announcing the beginning of this procedure and requesting governments to designate a national authority to participate in the information and response procedure. He added that by the next meeting of the Group, he hoped to have more information to report on the response of countries, and on which chemicals and pesticides would be covered in the initial stages of implementation.