

**GENERAL AGREEMENT
ON TARIFFS AND TRADE**

RESTRICTED
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Special Distribution

(94-0387)

Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade

NOTIFICATION

The following notification is being circulated in accordance with Article 10.4.

1.	Party to Agreement notifying: <u>EUROPEAN COMMUNITY</u>
2.	Agency responsible: Commission of the European Communities
3.	Notified under Article 2.5.2 [X], 2.6.1 [], 7.3.2 [], 7.4.1 [], other:
4.	Products covered (HS or CCCN where applicable, otherwise national tariff heading. ICS numbers may be provided in addition, where applicable): Finished or semi-finished articles of precious metal intended for the ultimate consumer. The precious metals concerned are platinum, gold, palladium and silver.
5.	Title and number of pages of the notified document: Proposal for a Council Directive Concerning Articles of Precious Metal (10 pages)
6.	Description of content: The objective of the proposal for a directive is: - to limit and define the scope of its application to articles intended for the ultimate consumer; - to determine the essential conditions to be met during manufacture and before placing on the market of the European Community; - to establish procedures for assessing conformity; - to fix the rules for striking marks and for the content of the marks; - to fix the ranges of nominal standards for each precious metal. The figures in these ranges shall be the only ones authorized in the Community market. In conformity with the provisions of the Council Resolution of 7 May 1985 (OJC.136 of 4 June 1985), it is limited to harmonization of the basic aspects.
7.	Objective and rationale: The proposal for a directive is based on Article 100A of the Treaty establishing the European Community. It is the result of the existence of technical barriers to intra-Community trade caused by differences in the legislation of Member States. Its purpose is therefore to ensure the free movement of articles of precious metal in the European Community market and to ensure a high level of consumer protection as well as to guarantee fair trading.

8. Relevant documents: Official Journal of the European Communities, C/318, 25 November 1993, page 15
9. Proposed date of adoption and entry into force: Date of adoption: February 1995 Entry into force: 1 January 1996 Transitional period until 1 January 1998
10. Final date for comments: 21 March 1994
11. Texts available from: National enquiry point [X] or address and telefax number of other body: D.G. III.A.1