

# GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

TBT/W/53

31 January 1983

Special Distribution

---

## Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade

### SECOND MEETING OF PERSONS RESPONSIBLE FOR ENQUIRY POINTS

#### Note by the Secretariat

1. At its eleventh meeting, on 29 October 1982, the Committee agreed that the secretariat should prepare a paper in consultation with interested delegations to assist the Committee in drawing up the agenda for the Spring 1983 meeting of enquiry points (TBT/M/11, para.27). The present note contains a draft agenda for the meeting and discusses some procedural matters.

#### Agenda

2. In the light of discussions at the first meeting of persons responsible for enquiry points in October 1981, and taking into account points made during the first part of the Three-Year Review conducted in October 1982 as well as subsequent comments by interested delegations, it is suggested that the agenda for the Spring 1983 meeting of enquiry points should include the following items:

- (1) Description of activities and facilities.
- (2) Publicity (TBT/W/41, TBT/M/10, para. 23).
- (3) Information needs of interested parties: past experience in meeting them and possible improvements in coverage and procedures (TBT/M/11, paras 25 and 29).
- (4) Documentation: access to draft proposals at national level (TBT/M/8, Annex, para.8).
- (5) Conditions of access to information: content of enquiries, covering of expenses, translation (TBT/M/8, Annex, paras 5,7,9; TBT/M/11, paras 15 and 42-43; TBT/11).
- (6) Technical assistance needs.
- (7) Other business.

3. The Committee might agree that the draft agenda to be circulated shortly before the meeting could include additional items as proposed by delegations in consultation with the Chairman of the Committee.

#### Preparations

4. Enquiry points should, as far as possible, circulate written descriptions of their activities and facilities in advance of the next meeting. This procedure was found useful at the first meeting of enquiry points. Such notices might deal with the elements proposed for inclusion in information booklets in document TBT/W/41. Any such information booklets that have been issued could also usefully be circulated in advance of the meeting.

#### Attendance

5. The Committee agreed (TBT/M/11, para.27) that representatives of interested observers would be invited to participate in enquiry points meetings. It is suggested that representatives of international standardizing bodies which have observer status in the Committee and which may have a specific contribution to make under one or another item of the agenda, be invited to participate in the discussion of these items.

#### Chairmanship

6. The Committee may wish to designate the Chairman of the enquiry points meeting at its meeting of 10-11 February 1983.

#### Date and organization

7. The date of the first meeting of enquiry points had been fixed so that it could be held in conjunction with a meeting of ISONET in ISO. This had been found convenient as most persons responsible for enquiry points were also their respective countries' representatives to ISONET. The Committee may wish to take this factor into consideration in fixing the date of the Spring 1983 meeting.

8. The arrangements for holding the first enquiry points meeting, which are described in document TBT/M/7, para.38, have worked well. It is suggested that the same arrangements be followed for the Spring 1983 meeting. Accordingly, the Committee should allocate three days for its own meeting, the second of which would be reserved for consultations among persons responsible for enquiry points.