

URUGUAY ROUND

OF MULTILATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS

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REPORTS FINALIZED FOR MONTREAL TNC MEETING

The Group of Negotiations on Goods (GNG), the Group of Negotiations on Services (GNS) and the Surveillance Body met during the week of 21 November to adopt their respective reports to the Ministerial meeting of the Trade Negotiations Committee in Montreal, beginning 5 December.

Negotiations on Goods

The work of the GNG was focused on the proposals for action by the TNC which had been submitted by the 14 negotiating groups in the goods area. Some of those proposals were already fully agreed while others were the subject of consultations conducted by the chairman of the GNG, Mr. Arthur Dunkel.

The document adopted by the GNG has three parts: a brief report on the work of the GNG itself over the past two years; an overview of progress in each of the 14 areas of negotiation and a series of points for action and decision by Ministers in Montreal.

Whilst in a number of areas the TNC will be presented with agreed proposals, in others, negotiations will go on at Ministerial level in Montreal; in most of the cases on the basis of clearly-defined options which have emerged from activity in Geneva.

Negotiations on Services

Following intensive consultations by its chairman, Ambassador Felipe Jaramillo, the group adopted a detailed report at its meeting on 24 November. The report covers all the areas of discussion in the group over the past two years and spells out the areas of convergence and divergence so far identified in the work aimed at creating a framework of multilateral rules and disciplines for trade in services.

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The report covers alternative approaches to the question of definition of trade in services and the related question of the sectoral coverage of the framework agreement. The largest section concerns the concepts, principles and rules which might underlie the framework and a further section looks at approaches to progressive trade liberalization in the context of the framework.

The Surveillance Body

A report by the Surveillance Body was adopted on 21 November. It gives Ministers an assessment of the implementation of the standstill and rollback commitments together with a number of recommendations aimed, in particular, at giving greater momentum to the rollback process in the second half of the round.

Note to Editors

1. Press bulletins on the Uruguay Round are issued regularly and are intended as an indication on the subject areas under discussion rather than as detailed accounts of negotiating positions. Journalists seeking further background information are invited to contact the GATT Information and Media Relations Division.

2. These accounts of negotiating meetings should be read in conjunction with the text of the Punta del Este Ministerial Declaration (GATT/1396 - 25 September 1986) and the decisions taken on 28 January 1987 regarding the negotiating structure, the negotiating plans and the surveillance of standstill and rollback (GATT/1405 - 5 February 1987). Further copies of these documents are available from the GATT Information and Media Relations Division.

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