

GENERAL AGREEMENT
ON TARIFFS AND
TRADE

ACCORD GENERAL SUR
LES TARIFS DOUANIERS
ET LE COMMERCE

CONFIDENTIAL
TEX.SB/332
29 September 1978

Textiles Surveillance Body

Organe de surveillance des textiles

ARRANGEMENT REGARDING INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN TEXTILES

Information received from the European Community

Note by the Chairman

Attached hereto is a letter received from the Commission regarding the communication of its Article 4 agreements to the TSB.

ARRANGEMENT CONCERNANT LE COMMERCE INTERNATIONAL DES TEXTILES

Renseignements reçus de la Communauté européenne

Note du Président

La Commission a fait parvenir au secrétariat la lettre ci-jointe concernant la communication à l'OST des accords conclus par la Communauté au titre de l'article 4.

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COMMISSION
OF THE
EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

Special Representative
for textile negotiations

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Brussels, 178

JB/al.

to be communicated to the TSB.

Ambassador P. WURTH,
Chairman
Textile Surveillance Body
G.A.T.T.
Centre William Rappard
Rue de Lausanne 154
CH - 1211 GENEVA 21

Dear Mr Ambassador,

I refer to the Community's bilateral agreements on trade in textile products negotiated under Article 4 of the Arrangement.

As you know, the Community has not yet been placed in a position to communicate these agreements to the Textile Surveillance Body on account of the delays which have occurred in the completion of the internal procedures for the conclusion of the agreements. I explained to you in my letter of 14 July that, in the Community's view, there is no obligation to communicate the agreements under Article 4, Paragraph 4, until an agreement is not only in "de facto" operation, but also legally in force. Where the Community is concerned, the process of giving legal force to the agreements is a lengthy one. It was accordingly set in motion without delay as soon as the agreements were initialled.

In view of the time involved in all these procedures, the Community wishes to make the agreements available for review in one way or another as soon as possible. For this reason, the Commission offered to make copies of the texts of agreements available to the Textile Surveillance Body in all cases where the exporting countries specifically consented to this procedure, thus allowing the review to get under way in advance of formal communication of the agreements. Whilst this procedure was agreeable to many exporting countries, I understand it did not commend itself to the Body.

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The Community is still convinced that a pragmatic procedure would help to save time. In the absence of such a solution, the Commission has no option but to await until the necessary Community authority for formal communication is available. The Commission is making every effort to ensure that this authority may be granted in the course of the next month, and to this end, preparations are being made to dispatch the agreements upon completion of the necessary procedures without delay.

Yours sincerely,



Trần Văn-Thịnh