

# GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

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1956 TARIFF CONFERENCE

Tariff Negotiations Committee

## PROCEEDINGS OF THE THIRD MEETING

Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,  
on Monday, 5 March, at 3 p.m.

Chairman: Mr. P. Koht (Norway)

Subjects discussed:

1. Draft Protocol
2. Timetable for Tariff Negotiations
3. Modifications of Offers

### 1. Draft Protocol (TN.56/W/2/Rev.1 and Corr.1)

The Committee considered the draft Protocol which had been prepared by the secretariat and discussed in the Tariff Negotiations Working Party. A number of drafting amendments were submitted by the secretariat and were approved.

The provisions of paragraph 4(b) of the draft were considered at some length. Some delegations called attention to the problem created by the fact that the concessions negotiated at the present conference by contracting parties which have signed the Declaration of 10 March 1955 will have an assured life only until 31 December 1957 and that those negotiated by contracting parties which have not signed the Declaration would be subject at the outset to withdrawal under the provisions of Article XXVIII in the present Agreement. This problem was accentuated by the fact that some concessions would be brought into effect in three annual stages, the last stage not taking effect until mid-1958. The Committee, however, did not attempt to solve this problem in the Protocol but felt that it emphasized the need for bringing into effect as quickly as possible the Protocols of Amendment to the General Agreement so that the new Article XXVIII would be effective before the expiration of the Declaration of 10 March 1955. The Committee also decided, since it provided no real solution to the problem, to delete paragraph 4(b) of the draft Protocol.

The Committee also accepted an amendment to paragraph 6 of the Protocol which had been submitted by the delegation of the Federal Republic of Germany (TN.55/W/3/Rev.1/Corr.2). The Committee approved the Protocol with the changes indicated above and agreed that the Protocol as revised should be opened for signature at the close of the negotiations and that notification of this intention and a copy of the Protocol should be transmitted promptly to the contracting parties. The revised Protocol is annexed hereto.

2. Timetable for the Tariff Negotiations (TN.56/8)

The Tariff Negotiations Committee approved the timetable for the tariff negotiations submitted by the Tariff Negotiations Working Party. This timetable should serve as a guide for delegations and for governments in making their arrangements for successive stages of the negotiations.

In connection with the targets set for "multilateral negotiations", it was made clear that this date was not intended to prevent the earlier inauguration of negotiations involving three or more participants; any such negotiations should be begun without delay. The date referred to concerned only such multilateral negotiations as might later appear desirable when all the bilateral negotiations had been completed. Any agreements reached in such multilateral negotiations should be incorporated in supplementary lists which would be initialled and distributed in the same manner as the bilateral lists.

3. Modifications of Offers

The Tariff Negotiations Committee decided that each delegation should send to the secretariat by 12 March and once weekly thereafter forty copies of a list of the changes made in their offers. This list should contain inter alia not only new or improved offers, but any other changes such as withdrawals of offers and any change in the status of items that had been originally reserved for discussion. All delegations should submit reports even if no changes are indicated.

PROTOCOL OF SUPPLEMENTARY CONCESSIONS  
TO THE GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

The governments which are contracting parties to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (hereinafter referred to as "the contracting parties" and "the General Agreement" respectively), having agreed upon procedures for the conduct of tariff negotiations by two or more contracting parties under the General Agreement and for putting into effect under the General Agreement the results of such negotiations,

The governments of \_\_\_\_\_ which are contracting parties to the General Agreement (hereinafter referred to as "negotiating contracting parties") having carried out tariff negotiations under these procedures and being desirous of so giving effect to the results of these negotiations,

IT IS AGREED:

1. The schedule of each negotiating contracting party annexed to this Protocol shall upon its entry into force in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 2 be regarded as a schedule to the General Agreement relating to that contracting party.

2. Subsequent to the signature of this Protocol by a negotiating contracting party the annexed schedule which relates to that contracting party shall enter into force on the thirtieth day following the day upon which notification has been received by the Executive Secretary from that contracting party of its intention to apply its concessions in that schedule or on such earlier date as may be specified by the contracting party giving such notification, and the concessions included in that schedule shall except as specified therein then enter into force.

3. Any negotiating contracting party which has given the notification referred to in paragraph 2 shall be free at any time to withhold or to withdraw in whole or in part any concession provided for in the appropriate schedule annexed to this Protocol, in respect of which such contracting party determines that it was initially negotiated with a negotiating contracting party which has not given such notification, Provided that

- (i) the negotiating contracting party withholding in whole or in part any such concessions shall give notice to the CONTRACTING PARTIES within thirty days after the date of such withholding and, upon request, shall consult with any contracting party having a substantial interest in the product involved;

(ii) the negotiating contracting party withdrawing in whole or in part any such concessions shall, before taking such action, give not less than thirty days notice to the CONTRACTING PARTIES and, upon request, shall consult with any contracting party having a substantial interest in the product involved; and

(iii) any concession so withheld or withdrawn shall be applied on or after the thirtieth day following the day upon which the notification referred to in paragraph 2 relating to a contracting party with which the concession was initially negotiated is received by the Executive Secretary.

4. In each case in which Article II of the General Agreement refers to the date of that Agreement, the applicable date in respect of the schedules annexed to this Protocol shall be the date of this Protocol.

5. (a) This Protocol shall be deposited with the Executive Secretary and shall be open for signature at the Headquarters of the CONTRACTING PARTIES in Geneva from \_\_\_ May 1956 until 31 December 1956.

(b) The Executive Secretary shall promptly furnish a certified copy of this Protocol, and a notification of each signature of this Protocol and of each notification referred to in paragraph 2, to each contracting party to the General Agreement.

6. The date of this Protocol shall be \_\_\_\_\_ May 1956. Its provisions will become effective in accordance with paragraphs 2 and 3 hereof.

DONE at Geneva, in a single copy in the English and French languages, both texts authentic except as otherwise specified in schedules annexed hereto.

Annex

SCHEDULES OF CONTRACTING PARTIES