

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED
GPR/Spec/29
1 December 1983

Committee on Government Procurement

DRAFT MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 2 NOVEMBER 1983

Chairman: Mr. M. Pullinen

1. The Committee on Government Procurement met on 2 November 1983. The participation in the meeting was limited to the Parties.
2. The Chairman, on behalf of the Committee, welcomed the delegation of Israel to the first meeting it attended as a member of the Committee.
3. The agenda was adopted, containing one item: "Second Statistical Review under the Agreement (GPR/Spec/28 and Addenda)".
4. The Chairman recalled Article VI:9 of the Agreement and the decision concerning its implementation taken at the first meeting of the Committee (GPR/M/1, Annex III). He noted that in spite of previous agreement that the statistical reports be submitted by 30 September 1983, only those of Finland, Singapore, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom for Hong Kong had arrived in time to be circulated as Committee documents. In addition, the reports by Norway and the United States were handed out at the meeting. The report by Japan had been sent but was not yet received in the secretariat. He invited delegations who so wished to make general statements including indications of problems encountered in the collection of statistics, as well as when the outstanding reports might be available.
5. The representative of Canada stated that the new format for presentation of statistics had been the cause of some problems; the report would be ready in a few weeks time.
6. The representative of the European Economic Community expected that certain remaining statistical problems would have been settled in a few weeks.
7. The representative of Sweden, speaking on behalf of Finland, Norway and Sweden, noted that the timely submission of statistics had become a general problem. He suggested for further consideration that more time be allowed in next year's exercise between the deadline for submissions and the date of the review session.
8. The representative of the United States explained that the preparation had been delayed by computer problems. In view of last year's experience he agreed with the Swedish remarks, although the United States intention was that the present situation - which complicated the building-up of domestic support for the Agreement - would not repeat itself.

The representative of Israel took up problems which non-Parties faced in assessing the benefits of the Agreement and in explaining its possible value to the local business community. Uncertainty in this regard might contribute to explain why only his country had acceded to the Agreement since it came into force. The question of statistics should in his view be considered also in the perspective of future negotiations with observers interested in becoming Parties; greater transparency was required in order that observers might be able to evaluate the Agreement.

The Committee took note of the statements made and agreed that the statistical review would take place at a meeting to be held on 31 January-3 February 1984, statistics being dealt with on the first day and the first half of the second day.

It was agreed that the next meeting would revert to the suggestion put forward by Sweden concerning next year's review. It was further agreed that delegations who wished to do so, might seek information from or address questions to other delegations in writing through the secretariat by 16 December 1983 for circulation to all Parties. Replies received would be given the same circulation. This would not prevent any Party from raising any points or asking any questions at the meeting itself.