

WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

RESTRICTED

S/CSC/W/10

10 October 1997

(97-4366)

Committee on Specific Commitments

ANNOTATED AGENDA FOR THE FOURTH MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE ON SPECIFIC COMMITMENTS

The proposed agenda for the meeting of the Committee on Specific Commitments on 29 October 1997 has been circulated in WTO/AIR/697. This annotated agenda provides background information on each agenda item.

A. Classification Issues

I. ASSESSMENT OF THE RELEVANCE OF THE ADOPTION OF CPC REVISION 1 FOR TRADE NEGOTIATING PURPOSES

1. At its last meeting the Committee had a first general discussion on classification issues, but no detailed discussion has yet taken place on the revision of the CPC nomenclature on the basis of document S/CSC/W/6 and S/CSC/W/6/Add.1 to 5.

2. In addition to those documents the Secretariat has since produced two other documents in response to requests made by Members: S/CSC/W/7 "Summary of the Main Changes Resulting from CPC Rev 1" and S/CSC/W/9 "A Qualitative Assessment of the Relevance of the Changes Resulting from CPC Rev1 For Trade Negotiating Purposes" in the sectors of energy, construction, distribution, tourism and transport).

3. As agreed at the last meeting representatives of the United Nations Statistical Division (UNSD) and of the Voorburg Group have been invited to attend this meeting. They will describe the state of work on CPC rev1 and its basic underlying principles and answer Members' questions.

4. It is suggested that the Committee should then discuss the relevance of CPC rev1 to its work.

II. TREATMENT OF NEW SERVICES

5. At the last meeting the Committee had a first discussion of the question of the treatment of new services (reflected in S/CSC/M/3 paragraphs 4 to 15). The Chairman then undertook to circulate an Informal Note collating the main ideas expressed. This informal note has been distributed as Job No. 5719 dated 10 October 1997.

III. "AD HOC" SECTORAL SCHEDULING

6. This question was also discussed at the last meeting. (See S/CSC/M/3 paragraphs 23 to 26). It was agreed to examine previous experience of departures from the standard scheduling model based on the CPC, though the general approach should not be *ad hoc* in nature. The Secretariat has therefore prepared a background note on the use of special classification methods for the scheduling of commitments in the sectors of air transport, financial services, telecommunications and maritime transport (S/CSC/W/11).

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B. Procedural and Cost Implications of the Development of Electronically Aggregated and Maintained Services Schedules

7. On the basis of the Committee's discussion of proposals contained in document S/CSC/W/5 the Secretariat has prepared a new document (S/CSC/W/8) concerning the timing and budgetary implications of the proposals.

C. Scheduling Guidelines

8. It was agreed at the last meeting that the scheduling guidelines needed revision. The Chairman invited delegations to submit in writing any views on scheduling difficulties that they had encountered and what they considered to be the main shortcomings of the present scheduling guidelines. An informal paper submitted by Switzerland was circulated on 7 October 1997 (Job No. 5628). The Secretariat has also circulated a short paper on the origins of the present scheduling guidelines (S/CSC/W/12).

D. Statistics

9. It was agreed at the last meeting that the question of statistics should be kept on the agenda in order to monitor progress. The only development that has occurred since is the request, by the Council for Trade in Services, in the framework of the exchange of information exercise, of a paper by the Secretariat on services trade flows. This paper, which will provide an indication of the statistics currently available and of those that are likely to become available, is in preparation. As requested during the last meeting the 1996 Secretariat document on statistics (S/C/W/5) has been recirculated.