

WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

RESTRICTED

WT/TPR/16

26 April 1996

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Trade Policy Review Body

TRADE POLICY REVIEW MECHANISM SWITZERLAND

Arrangements for Review Meetings

Communication from the Chairperson

1. In pursuance of Article IV, paragraph 4 and Annex 3 of the WTO Agreement, a meeting of the Trade Policy Review Body is scheduled for 28-29 May to conduct a review of the trade policies and practices of Switzerland (WTO/AIR/322).

2. This communication sets out arrangements concerning the review meetings. In this connection, attention is also drawn to the procedures for the conduct of reviews contained in the rules of procedure for meetings of the Trade Policy Review Body (WT/TPR/6).

(i) Questions in writing in advance of the meetings

3. Where possible, Members shall submit written questions to the Member under review at least one week before the review meeting, to allow time to prepare replies. For the forthcoming review, such questions should therefore be in the hands of the Secretariat by **Tuesday, 21 May**. All questions submitted will be made available to Members at the beginning of the meetings.

(ii) Discussants

4. In consultation with the Members under review, the Chairperson of the Trade Policy Review Body may choose discussants who, in their personal capacity, will introduce the discussions in the Body. H.E. Mr. B. Gardner (United States) and H.E. Mr. K. Kesavapany (Singapore) will act as discussants for the review of Switzerland. Documents summarizing the main points to be raised by the discussants will be circulated one week in advance of the meetings.

(iii) Structure of the meetings

5. Trade policy reviews cover four broad headings:

- (a) appreciation of the full range of the Members' trade policies and practices;
- (b) relevant background: wider economic and developmental needs, including the external environment;
- (c) impact of the Members' trade policies and practices on the functioning of the multilateral trading system; and
- (d) general comments by way of assessment and evaluation.

Meetings take place in two sessions. The first session is devoted to the opening statements by the Member under review, discussants and remarks from the floor. The discussion of the second session when replies are made by the Member under review, is based on main themes identified after the opening meeting by the Chairperson, discussants and Secretariat in consultation with the Member.

(iv) Documentation and press arrangements

6. Reports by the Members under review and the Secretariat are contained in the following documents:

WT/TPR/G/13	Report by the Government of Switzerland
WT/TPR/S/13	Switzerland: Report by the Secretariat

7. The press embargo for the review of Switzerland will end at 13.00 GMT (15.00 local time) on Wednesday, 29 May 1996.

(v) Minutes

8. Minutes of the meetings will be circulated promptly and will be published together with the reports by the Government and the Secretariat.

(vi) Answers in writing by Members under review after the Trade Policy Review Body meetings

9. In the course of the discussions at the review meetings, the Members under review may indicate that they intend to provide supplementary information, in writing, on specific points raised. Upon receipt, the Secretariat will circulate documents containing this information to all Members. Such information will not be reflected in the minutes of the meetings.