

# WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

RESTRICTED

**WT/BOP/R/23**

19 February 1997

(97-0655)

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## **Committee on Balance-of-Payments Restrictions**

### NOTE ON THE MEETING OF 7 FEBRUARY 1997

1. The Committee met on 7 February 1997 under the Chairmanship of Mr. Peter Witt (Germany) and adopted the agenda set out in WTO/AIR/515.

(1) Election of Chairman

2. The outgoing Chairman proposed that Mr. Peter Jenkins (United Kingdom) be elected to the Chairmanship. The Committee so agreed.

(2) Observer Status for International Intergovernmental Organizations

3. The Chairman informed the Committee that, according to the guidelines adopted in Singapore (WT/L/161, Annex 3), regular observer status could now be granted to those international, intergovernmental, organizations that already had *ad hoc* observer status in the Committee. The list of observers (WT/BOP/INF/3) comprised the ACP Secretariat, EBRD, EFTA, OECD, UNCTAD and the World Bank. The Committee agreed to grant regular observer status to these organizations and that future requests for observer status would be handled according to the relevant guidelines.

(3) Membership in the Committee

4. The Chairman reminded the Committee that, according to paragraph 5 of the Understanding on Balance-of-Payments Provisions of the GATT 1994, membership in the Committee was "open to all Members indicating their wish to serve on it". WTO Members wishing to serve on the Committee were invited to address this request in writing to the Director-General. A document updating the current list of Committee members (WT/BOP/INF/2, 3 July 1996) would be circulated by the end of the month. The representative of Hong Kong indicated his Government's wish to join the Committee.

(4) Programme of 1997 Meetings

5. The Committee had before it WT/BOP/W/15, 4 February 1997, listing the tentative dates for consultations. One Member drew attention to the upcoming consultations with Nigeria for which a proper notification would be required.

(5) Other Business

6. Under "Other Business", the representative of Poland, with reference to the communication submitted in June 1996 (WT/BOP/N/8), informed the Committee that the import surcharge had been removed as of 1 January 1997. He added that this information would be duly notified in writing to the Secretariat.