

Negotiating Group on Trade Facilitation

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

Held in the Centre William Rappard
from 5 – 9 October 2009

Chairman: H.E. Mr. Eduardo Ernesto Sperisen-Yurt (Guatemala)

1. The Chairman explained that the objective of the meeting was to review the proposals and counterproposals for issues falling under GATT Articles X and V, as well as special and differential treatment, in order to draft a consolidated negotiating text that would accurately reflect Members' positions.
2. The Negotiating Group adopted the agenda that had been circulated in WTO/AIR/3424.
3. The meeting moved immediately into informal mode for discussion of these issues.
4. In the closing plenary session the Chairman informed Members that the results of the week's discussions would be incorporated into an initial draft consolidated negotiating text and distributed as a JOB document¹. Members were also informed that they had one week to submit further counterproposals in writing that would be distributed to all Members as a W series document and would also be incorporated into the Consolidated Text.
5. The Chairman announced that the next meeting was scheduled for 9-13 November, 2009.
6. The objective of the next meeting would be to review the proposals and counterproposals of all the remaining topics, which would include GATT Article VIII, customs cooperation, cross-cutting issues and special and differential treatment, in order to complete the first full version of the Draft Consolidated Negotiating Text.
7. The Chairman reminded Members that several headings and sub-headings contained multiple versions of proposed text. He urged Members to work together to combine these texts prior to the next meeting.
8. The Negotiating Group took note of the statements made.
9. The meeting was adjourned.

¹ It was issued as Draft Consolidated Negotiating Text (Incomplete) JOB(09)/147.