

Negotiating Group on Trade Facilitation

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

Held in the Centre William Rappard
from 9-13 November 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 Article VIII, customs cooperation, institutional matters, cross cutting issues and 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/3456.
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 the incomplete draft consolidated negotiating text that was prepared as a result of the previous meeting.¹ This complete Draft Consolidated Negotiating Text would be issued as an official W document and would become the working document from this point forward.
5. Members were also informed that they had ten days to submit additional counterproposals in writing for inclusion in the new text. For purposes of transparency, these additional counterproposals would also be distributed to all Members as a separate W series document.
6. The Chairman announced that the next meeting was scheduled for February 8-12, 2010. The purpose of this meeting would be to examine the Draft Consolidated Negotiating Text to ensure that Members positions are reflected accurately and to begin to reduce disparities and improve the text.
7. The Negotiating Group took note of the statements made.
8. The meeting was adjourned.

¹ It was issued as Draft Consolidated Negotiating Text (Incomplete) JOB(09)/147 and covered issues falling under GATT Articles X and V.