

**ENERGY CHARTER
SECRETARIAT**

CCDEC 1997

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Brussels, 4-5 November 1997

Related documents: CC 96, CC 100, CC 102, RD 6 (ECC of 04-05 11 1997)
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DECISION OF THE ENERGY CHARTER CONFERENCE

Subject: **Negotiations based on report from WG II: Trade Amendment**

On the issue of a legally binding tariff standstill the non-WTO member countries expressed concern that the ongoing trade negotiations might limit their room for manoeuvre in the WTO accession process while the WTO member countries stressed that adherence to a tariff standstill in ECT context should be considered as strengthening not weakening their position in the WTO accession process. The Conference noted that consultations with delegations will continue and the results will be reported to the Conference.

The coverage of TRIPS (Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights) in some manner by the amended trade provisions was suggested by one delegation. That delegation agreed to circulate a proposal as soon as possible. A group will meet to consider that text and the remaining technical footnotes left in RD 6.

One delegation considered that trade in nuclear materials should become subject to the general interim provisions on trade-related matters. The Chairman recalled the conclusion of the April 1995 meeting of the Conference (CC 20) in adopting the Terms of Reference for Working Group II that “The European Community and the Russian Federation, in particular, underlined that issues agreed in the Energy Charter Treaty as adopted in Lisbon should not be revisited in the trade negotiations.” and expressed the hope that that delegation would bear that conclusion in mind.

Keywords: Working Group II, Trade Amendment