

WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

G/TMB/N/300

23 September 1997

(97-3870)

Textiles Monitoring Body

Original: English

AGREEMENT ON TEXTILES AND CLOTHING

Communication from the European Community

The Textiles Monitoring Body has received a communication from the European Commission in reply to its request for additional information in the context of the preparation of the Body's Comprehensive Report on the implementation of the ATC during its first stage, in accordance with paragraph 11 of Article 8.

The TMB is circulating this communication to WTO Members for their information.

European Commission
Geneva

Geneva, 26 June 1997

Dear Ambassador,

Further to your letter of 12 June 1997 concerning comments of Pakistan¹, I am pleased to reply in the following terms.

Prior to the entry into force of the Agreement on Textiles and Clothing and, more recently, as part of the European Community's determination of its second stage of integration, consultations were held between the European Community and Pakistan in order that both sides could better understand their respective positions in respect of the Agreement on Textiles and Clothing. In the course of these consultations Pakistan did not raise any particular interests concerning the implementation of provisions of the Agreement. The European Community, nonetheless, considered that the consultations in question were useful in providing clearer understanding of the position of Pakistan which the European Community took into account. Pakistan has not informed the European Community of any difficulties that it considers might arise from the application of Article 1.4 of the Agreement on Textiles and Clothing nor sought any further consultations concerning this provision.

I should like to recall that pursuant to the ATC the European Community notified pre-existing quantitative restrictions under Articles 2 (and 3) of the Agreement on Textiles and Clothing. The position noted by Pakistan, namely that certain countries have free access while others do not, resulted from the objective situation existing at the entry into force of the ATC, and not from any perceived discrimination between cotton-producing and non-cotton producing countries.

I hope that this reply will prove of assistance to the TMB.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed for) R.E. Abbott
Ambassador

Ambassador Szepesi
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¹Regarding the comments made by Pakistan, see G/TMB/N/296.