

**GENERAL AGREEMENT
ON TARIFFS AND TRADE**

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Committee on Trade and Development

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COMMUNICATION FROM THE MERCOSUR COUNTRIES

The Permanent Mission of Brazil has requested that the following communication dated 21 December 1994 be circulated for the information of contracting parties.

In its capacity of Pro-Tempore Chairman of Mercosur, the Brazilian Government, on behalf of the Mercosur Countries (Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay), and as a follow up to the notification of the Treaty of Assunción under the provisions of the Enabling Clause (document L/7370/Add.1) would like to inform the Committee on Trade and Development that the Common External Tariff foreseen in that Treaty will be implemented on 1 January 1995.

The new tariff levels, to be applied on a m.f.n. basis on trade into any of the four countries, approved by the Mercosur Presidential Summit, 15 to 17 December 1994, will soon be available to interested delegations on a line by line basis, together with a brief explanation on the scope of application. The provision of such information will not alter any of the tariff commitments of the four countries under GATT 1947 or GATT 1994. It is the intention of the four countries, within an appropriate timeframe, to withdraw their national schedules to GATT and present an equivalent Mercosur schedule for annexation to GATT.

The Mercosur countries will be ready, from the time of the presentation of information on the Common External Tariff applied levels and in accordance with GATT procedures, to discuss the implementation of the Common External Tariff in the Working Party on Mercosur, to consult with interested delegations under paragraph 4 of the Enabling Clause and to conduct, as appropriate, consultations and negotiations under Article XXVIII of GATT.