

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

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EUROPEAN FREE-TRADE ASSOCIATION

Statement by the Swedish Representative before the Heads of Delegations on 11 November 1959

On behalf of the delegations representing the countries of the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) I wish to make a short statement.

1. During the ministerial debate, Mr. Kling, speaking on behalf of the seven Governments, said, inter alia:

"In order to comply with the provisions of paragraph 7(a) of Article XXIV the seven Governments will promptly notify the CONTRACTING PARTIES and make the text of the Convention available to them without delay. It will be up to the CONTRACTING PARTIES to decide on the methods to be applied in the examination of the Convention. The Governments concerned will for this purpose be at the disposal of the CONTRACTING PARTIES, if they should so desire, at their next session. As time is somewhat short before the tariff reductions are planned to take effect, consideration could be speeded up by following, for instance, the procedure used in the examination of the Treaty of Rome, where questions were co-ordinated and submitted to the Governments prior to the examination of the Treaty. It might be useful if procedures for the examination of the Convention could be agreed upon as soon as possible."

2. Since Mr. Kling made this declaration the following development has taken place:

The officials late in the night of 4 November finished the work of drawing up the text of a convention for EFTA containing provisions dealing with industrial goods, agricultural, fish and other marine products. In doing so they have followed closely the Saltsjöbaden Plan.

3. The draft convention will now be considered by governments. A ministerial meeting is agreed for 19 - 20 November in Stockholm.

The convention is expected to be signed in the first week of December. The text of the convention will then be transmitted to the CONTRACTING PARTIES without delay.

4. The delegations of the EFTA countries will be ready to have any preliminary discussions of the procedure to be followed by the GATT in the inter-sessional period.