

8 April 1989  
(12.00)

TEXTILES AND CLOTHING

CHAIRMAN'S TEXT

1. Ministers recognize that the sector of textiles and clothing is of great importance for the economies of many countries and particularly for the economic and social development of many developing countries and for the expansion of their export earnings.
2. Ministers, therefore, recognize that negotiations in this sector are one of the key elements in the Uruguay Round, and should contribute to further liberalization of trade.
3. With a view to achieving substantive results in this area of the negotiations, and bearing in mind the general principles governing the negotiations and the organization thereof as set out in Part I of the Punta del Este Declaration, Ministers agree that:
  - (a) substantive negotiations will begin in April 1989 in order to reach agreement within the time-frame of the Uruguay Round on modalities for the integration of this sector into GATT, in accordance with the negotiating objective;
  - (b) such modalities for the process of integration into GATT on the basis of strengthened GATT rules and disciplines should inter alia cover the phasing out of restrictions under the Multi-fibre Arrangement and other restrictions on textiles and clothing not consistent with GATT rules and disciplines, the time-span for such a process of integration, and the progressive character of this process which should commence following the conclusion of the negotiations in 1990;
  - (c) to this end participants are invited to put forward additional proposals, preferably not later than 30 June 1989;
  - (d) special treatment should be accorded to the least-developed countries.
4. To provide a positive climate for these negotiations, and without prejudice to the existing rights and obligations, and reaffirming their commitments embodied in Part I.C of the Punta del Este Declaration, all participants shall endeavour to improve the trade situation paving the way for the integration of the textiles and clothing sector into GATT.