

A) MARKET ACCESS

This covers the negotiating groups on tariffs, non-tariff measures, natural resource-based products, textiles and tropical products.

Tariffs (Negotiating Group 1)

The agreement by Ministers includes the following points:

- . substantive negotiations will begin no later than 1 July 1989, and detailed procedures, approaches and methods necessary for the negotiations will be established in the meantime;
- . overall tariff results to be targetted by all countries would be at least as ambitious as that achieved by formula countries in the Tokyo Round (i.e., a trade weighted average reduction of between 35 and 40%);
- . substantial reduction or elimination of high tariffs, tariff peaks, tariff escalation and low tariffs;
- . substantial increases in the binding of tariff levels;
- . phasing the results of the negotiations over appropriate periods to allow for adjustment;
- . real improvements in market access (i.e., resolution of non-tariff barriers to trade) will be important in determining the extent to which tariff barriers could be reduced;
- . developing countries will participate to the extent consistent with the level of their respective stages of economic development.

As an indication of the progress towards substantive tariff negotiations, the USA Government now has triggered the process mandated by domestic law to refer to the US International Trade Commission items for which tariff reduction or elimination might be considered in the Uruguay Round.