

Brussels, 4-5 November 1997

Related documents: CC 97, CC 101, CC 102

DECISION OF THE ENERGY CHARTER CONFERENCE

Subject: **Negotiations based on report from WG III: Energy-Related Equipment**

Some non-WTO countries expressed concern with respect to inclusion of multipurpose items and energy consuming equipment not directly related to energy investments. It was underlined that the relative importance of the trade provisions had to be understood: the trade regime in the ECT is by its nature transitional until all parties have become members of the WTO; all delegations expressed their wish for a quick accession process. The purpose of the trade provisions of the ECT and the ongoing negotiations to include energy-related equipment were two-fold: to bridge the gap until non-WTO members became members of the WTO and to assist them in their accession process.

A broad majority of countries supported the following working hypotheses proposed by the acting Chairman of Working Group III:

- negotiations will be based on one list
- the list proposed by Kazakhstan will be taken as the basis for further consideration
- Energy-Related Equipment will be included in the general trade regime of the ECT
- a best endeavours tariff standstill will apply; and
- there would be a procedure to move items to a legally binding standstill based on unanimity.

Consultations with delegations will continue on that basis until the next meeting of the Conference. A group might meet to discuss on the basis of the working hypothesis.

Specific views of delegations have been recorded in footnotes to CC 101.