

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

1982-1983

27 October 1982

DOCUMENT 1-804/82

ORAL QUESTION (0-84/82)

with debate pursuant to Rule 42 of the Rules of Procedure
by Mr SEELER

on behalf of the Committee on External Economic Relations
to the Commission of the European Communities

Subject : GATT Conference of Ministers

1. What is the current state of preparation of possible GATT decisions on
 - a) consideration by GATT of the interests of developing countries;
restriction of the customs preference system for newly industrialized countries and the gradual liberalization of markets in these countries for goods from industrial countries;
 - b) the selective use of the safeguard clause under Article XIX of GATT;
 - c) the treatment of agriculture under GATT;
 - d) the liberalization of services;
 - e) trade in advanced technology products;
 - f) the elimination of non-tariff obstacles to trade so as to abolish concealed import barriers;
 - g) the creation of a harmonized customs system to achieve greater comparability and exchangeability of information?
2. Does the Commission intend to recommend that the Council deal with the following subjects in preparation for the

GATT Conference of Ministers, and if so, in what form ?

- a) Measures to counteract the growing protectionist trends in world trade (bilateral agreements, voluntary self-restraint agreements, export subsidies and dumping);
 - b) Measures to restrict to a minimum the growing intervention in world trade in pursuit of foreign policy goals?
3. Does the Commission intend to propose to the Council that the function of world reserve currencies, particularly the US Dollar, in world trade should be discussed in Geneva? In this context, will the Commission also include in its preparatory work the problems of financing world trade, in particular the terms for commercial loans?
4. Which other areas for potential decisions are to be discussed and what progress has been reached with preparatory work ?