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EUROPEAN CUSTOMS UNION
STUDY GROUP

08/VI/7

Brussels, 28 July 1950.

PRESS COMMUNIQUE

The European Customs Union Study Group held its sixth Plenary Session at Brussels from 24 to 28 July, under the Chairmanship of Mr. SPIERBURG, and the Vice-Chairmanship of Mr. CALMES.

The following countries were represented:

- ✓ Austria
 - ✓ Benelux (Belgium, Luxembourg, Netherlands)
 - ✓ Denmark
 - ✓ France
 - ✓ Greece
 - ✓ German Federal Republic
 - ✓ Iceland
 - ✓ Italy
 - ✓ Norway
 - ✓ Portugal
 - ✓ Sweden
 - ✓ Switzerland
 - ✓ Turkey
 - ✓ United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
- Notes*
France

Observers represented:

- Australia
- Canada
- Ceylon
- India
- New Zealand
- Union of South Africa
- Organization for European Economic Co-operation
- United Nations Organization
- United States of America

The Study Group examined and discussed the report presented to it by the Customs Committee at the conclusion of the work carried out by the various technical Committees responsible to this Committee (Special Nomenclature Committee, Valuation Sub-Committee) in accordance with the instructions which the Customs Committee had received from the Study Group.

This work included:

of a program of work
of a study
of a study

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- a - the preparation of a contracted Customs Nomenclature reduced to main headings ;
- b - the preparation of a common definition of Customs Value ;
- c - the preparation of draft Conventions bringing into operation the contracted Nomenclature and the definition of Customs value;
- d - proposals concerning the setting up of the Consultative committees which would have the duty of ensuring the uniform application of the Conventions .

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The Study Group examined the 1950 Nomenclature obtained by revising the 1949 Nomenclature and reducing it to main headings .

1 - The principal features of the 1950 Nomenclature are as follows :

- (a) The number of main headings is now 1095, as compared with 1360 in the 1949 text, and 991 in the League of Nations 1937 Nomenclature;
- (b) All these headings are intended to be obligatory for States entering into the Convention. These States must not add or delete any headings;
- (c) On the other hand, Contracting States will be entirely free to create under the obligatory main headings any sub-headings they may require. They will thus be able to adapt their existing tariffs to the Nomenclature and make all necessary provision for tariff rate distinctions.

The Study Group decided to recommend this Nomenclature to the Governments of the participating countries with a view to its incorporation in a Convention .

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The work undertaken since 1948 to establish a common Definition for Customs Value has continued since the last plenary

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session of the Study Group .

The Study Group approved the Definition proposed by the Customs Committee in its entirety, with a view to incorporating it in the Convention .

Two draft Conventions, on the Nomenclature and on Value, will be submitted to the Governments of the participating countries .

As a result of these decisions, the Study Group, desirous of having the Conventions signed before the end of the year, decided on the following work programme :

- 1) The Study Group recommends to Governments the adoption of the 1950 Nomenclature and the Definition of Value with a view to their insertion in international Conventions .
- 2) The Governments will advise, by 11th September 1950 at the latest, whether they accept the text of the Nomenclature, the definition of value and the substance of the draft Conventions .
- 3) At the same time, on 11th September 1950, the Customs Committee will meet in Brussels to study answers of the Governments and will decide, in collaboration with a committee of jurists, upon the final form to be given to the draft Conventions .
- 4) On the 24th October 1950 a plenary session of the Study Group held in Brussels, will take note of the Conventions and recommend them to the participating countries .
- 5) Early in December the plenipotentiaries of the various participating States will sign the Conventions .

During its session, the Study Group discussed the advisability of being endowed with an international status .

A Restricted Working Party was appointed to study this problem and present appropriate recommendations at the next session of the Group .
