



HARMONIZED SYSTEM
COMMITTEE

NC0426E1

-
27th Session

O. Eng.

Brussels, April 2001.

USE OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY TO SPEED UP DECISIONS BY THE HSC

(Item III.3 on Agenda)

Reference documents :

NC0313E1 (HSC/26)
NC0340E2, Annex C/4 (HSC/26 – Report)
NC0358E1 (HSC/27)

I. BACKGROUND

1. On 24 April 2001, the Secretariat received comments from the ICC (International Chamber of Commerce) with regard to the above-mentioned subject.

II. COMMENTS FROM THE ICC

2. "Discussions with our National Committees and individual companies has resulted in the following comments :
 1. Limit the number of times an issue can be brought to the floor. Most products in the high Technology sector are obsolete before a classification decision is made.
 2. Stagger agenda. Meeting number one, issue papers are presented. Meeting two, discussion and classification vote.
 3. Product manufacturer or independent technical resource present at meetings to answer technical questions on product under review.
 4. Establish WCO Technical Review Sub-Committee for Chapters 84, 85 and 90.
 5. During the Working Party the member countries submit alternative proposals and suggest amendments to the Secretariat's text. If the Secretariat could draft the texts right after a HS Committee meeting, the technology exists to disseminate the texts electronically between meetings. Proposals to change the texts could be filed electronically, with everyone getting a copy of the proposed change. This could cut down the WP to one day.

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6. Invite industry to make direct technical contributions.
7. With regard to virtual meetings, we would be surprised if most countries have the infrastructure to carry real-time video and audio. We really doubt this is feasible yet."

III. CONCLUSION

3. The Committee is invited to take into account the above-mentioned comments from the ICC when examining this Agenda Item.
