

GATT/AIR/116

16 July 1957

SUBJECT: INTERSESSIONAL COMMITTEE - PROGRAMME OF MEETINGS FOR
AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER 1957

WHEN THE INTERSESSIONAL COMMITTEE AT ITS MEETING ON 24 - 27 APRIL (IC/SR.30) DISCUSSED THE PROCEDURES TO BE FOLLOWED BY THE CONTRACTING PARTIES IN THEIR EXAMINATION OF THE TREATY ESTABLISHING THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY IT WAS AGREED THAT THE COMMITTEE WOULD MEET AGAIN IN THE LATTER PART OF AUGUST.

THE TIMING OF THE PROPOSED MEETING IN AUGUST WAS CONTINGENT UPON THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE SUBMISSION OF QUESTIONS TO THE INTERIM COMMITTEE FOR THE COMMON MARKET CONCERNING THE PROVISIONS OF THE TREATY AND THEIR IMPLEMENTATION AND UPON THE RECEIPT OF THE ANSWERS FROM THE INTERIM COMMITTEE. CONTRACTING PARTIES WERE ASKED TO SUBMIT QUESTIONS TO ME BY 31 MAY. MOST OF THE QUESTIONS WERE NOT RECEIVED UNTIL THE FIRST WEEK OF JUNE AND THE TASK OF PREPARING THE CONSOLIDATED QUESTIONS (L/639) WAS NOT COMPLETED BY THE WORKING GROUP APPOINTED FOR THIS PURPOSE UNTIL THE MIDDLE OF JUNE. THE INTERIM COMMITTEE WAS ASKED TO SUPPLY EXPLANATIONS IN ANSWER TO THE QUESTIONS BY 15 JULY BUT I HAVE BEEN INFORMED BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE THAT, IN VIEW OF THIS DELAY, THE LENGTH OF THE QUESTIONNAIRE AND THE COMPLEXITY OF THE ISSUES INVOLVED, IT WILL NOT BE POSSIBLE FOR HIM TO SUBMIT THE ANSWERS TO THE QUESTIONS BEFORE THE BEGINNING OF AUGUST. IT APPEARS UNLIKELY THEREFORE THAT THE SECRETARIAT WILL BE ABLE TO ISSUE THE REPLIES IN A GATT DOCUMENT IN BOTH WORKING LANGUAGES BEFORE THE MIDDLE OF AUGUST.

SINCE GOVERNMENTS WILL WISH TO HAVE AMPLE TIME TO STUDY THE REPLIES TO THE QUESTIONS BEFORE RESUMING THEIR DISCUSSIONS I PROPOSE THAT THE AUGUST MEETING BE POSTPONED AND BE COMBINED WITH THE NEXT STATUTORY MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE TO BE HELD THREE WEEKS PRIOR TO THE OPENING OF THE SESSION. I PROPOSED IN GATT/AIR/113 THAT THAT MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE SHOULD BEGIN AT 3 P.M. ON 23 SEPTEMBER.

E. WYNDHAM WHITE