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**DSTI/SU/SC(98)9**



PARIS

Organisation de Coopération et de Développement Economiques  
Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

**OLIS : 22-Apr-1998**  
**Dist. : 23-Apr-1998**

**Or. Eng.**

**DIRECTORATE FOR SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INDUSTRY  
STEEL COMMITTEE**

**DSTI/SU/SC(98)9**  
**Unclassified**

## **STEEL TRADE AND TRADE-RELATED ISSUES**

*The attached document is for consideration by the Steel Committee at its meeting on 29 May 1998.*

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## **SUMMARY**

Response to the Committee's questionnaire on *Steel trade and trade-related issues* [DSTI/SI/SC(97)56] has been disappointing, and it has not been possible to prepare a meaningful overview report.

## **ACTION**

Delegations are asked to provide completed questionnaires to the Secretariat on an expedited basis. The Committee will review the situation at its 29 May 1998 meeting. Initial discussion of the results of the questionnaire will, however, not be possible until the Committee's Fall 1998 meeting, at the earliest.

## **RELATED DOCUMENTS**

DSTI/SI/SC(97)30/REV1

DSTI/SI/SC(97)56

DSTI/SI/SC/M(97)2

## STEEL TRADE AND TRADE-RELATED ISSUES

### Background

1. At its meeting on 13-14 November 1997, the Steel Committee discussed how it would proceed with its enhanced work on steel trade and trade-related issues [DSTI/SI/SC/M(97)2, paragraphs 32-35]. It agreed to adopt the approach set forth in document DSTI/SI/SC(97)30/REV1, subject to several modifications.

2. The Secretariat subsequently prepared and distributed a revised questionnaire to the Committee in December 1997, with the request that completed questionnaires be submitted by 2 March 1998. On the basis of the information received, the Secretariat was then to draft an overview report summarising the country and area reports. The Committee would consider this report at its June 1998 meeting.

### Status

3. Very few countries met the requested deadline, and the response rate remains disappointing. As of 20 April 1998, only 9 reports (out of 17) had been received. The reporting status is as follows:

Country	Status
Brazil	Responded
Czech Republic	Responded
Canada	Responded
European Communities 1/	Responded
Hungary	No response
Japan	Responded
Korea	No response
Mexico	No response
Norway	No response
Poland	No response
Russia	No response
Romania	No response
Slovak Republic	Responded
Switzerland	Responded
Turkey	Responded
Ukraine	No response
United States	Responded

1. On behalf of the 15 Member states.

4. As shown below, the questionnaires that were submitted were, however, often incomplete.

Country	Import report (1A)	Export report (1B)	Trade statistics (1C)	Unfair trade measures (2A)	Safeguard measures (2B)	Government assistance (2C)	MFN tariffs (3A)	Concessionary tariffs (3B)	Nontariff measures (4)	Other trade measures (5)
Brazil			x 1/							
Canada	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	
Czech Republic			x	x	x	x	x		x	x
European Communities 2/	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Japan			x				x		x	
Slovak Republic			x	x	x	x	x	x	x	
Switzerland	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Turkey			x	x 1/						
United States	x	x	x				x	x	x	
Total	4	4	9	6	5	5	7	5	7	3

1. Partial response.
  2. On behalf of the 15 Member states.
- Note: An "x" indicates that information has been provided.

5. In light of the poor response, it has not been possible to prepare a meaningful overview report. Nor have the individual country reports been distributed, as an insufficient number have been received.

### Follow-up

6. At its meeting on 29 May 1998, the Committee will be provided with an opportunity to discuss its work on trade and trade-related issues. It may wish to explore the nature and reasons for the delays that have occurred in reporting, and agree on how its work on trade and trade-related issues might have to be modified. At the very least, it appears that an initial discussion on the questionnaire results will have to be delayed until the Committee's Fall 1998 meeting, at the earliest.