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RODERICK E. ABBOTT

Current assignment :

Deputy Director General of DG Trade since 1 September 2000.

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1. 1960s: Civil Servant in the then Board of Trade in London and later in the Department of Economic Affairs. From 1968-71 first Secretary for GATT affairs with the UK Mission in Geneva.
2. In 1973 joined the EEC Commission, and appointed Chef de Division for GATT Affairs in DG I. Responsible for preparation of the Tokyo Round negotiations. From 1975 appointed Chef adjoint at the Commission Delegation in Geneva, with extensive negotiating responsibilities in the non-tariff area of the Tokyo Round. Returned to DG I on conclusion of the negotiations in 1979.
3. 1980s: responsible for GATT and OECD affairs. Appointed as Director in DG I in 1982, with added responsibilities for external aspects of agriculture and fisheries policy. Commission negotiator in successive GATT examinations of EC Enlargement Treaties (1981 Greece; 1986 Spain, Portugal; and 1995 Austria, Finland, Sweden) and for tariff negotiations in that context. Participant in GATT Ministers and 'Quadrilateral Trade Ministers' Meetings. Regular Commission delegate to the OECD Trade Committee and later to the ECSS, and to OECD Ministerial Meetings.
4. 1990s: additional responsibility for export credit (OECD Consensus). Responsible for the first three GATT Trade Policy Reviews of the EC (1991, 1993, 1995).
Uruguay Round (1986 to 1993): member of the Commission steering group responsible for overall policy supervision, and in final stages tariff negotiator. Preparation of G-8 Economic Summits on trade matters.
5. Head of Delegation in Geneva (with title of Ambassador) from November 1996 to August 2000. Accredited to both the UN Office in Geneva and the Special Agencies (ILO, WHO, UNHCR, ECE, etc.) and to the WTO which in practice constitutes the major part of my own work and that of the Delegation. In this capacity attended each of the three Ministerial Conferences in Singapore (1996), in Geneva (1998) and in Seattle (December 1999). Intensively occupied with preparations for new multilateral trade negotiations and with dispute settlement cases.

1. 1962-68: Experience in a number of different functions in the Board of Trade in London (including relations with EFTA countries, textile import policy, regional planning, and a temporary period dealing with GATT and UNCTAD matters). Assistant in the Minister's Office 1965-66.
2. 1968-71: Attached to the UK Mission, Geneva with responsibility for GATT affairs, during the period in which the Work Programme prior to the Tokyo Round was established and developed. Participation in OECD discussions on GATT aspects of introduction of GSP schemes.
3. 1973-75: On appointment to the Commission served as Chef de Division for GATT affairs during the period of active Community preparations for the Tokyo Round (Ministerial Meeting, September 1973, development of Commission negotiating mandate).
4. 1975-79: Attached to the EEC Delegation in Geneva during the Tokyo Round, as Deputy Chef de Mission, with particular responsibility for the negotiations in the sector of non-tariff measures. In the early stages this included supervision of the work in developing all the MTN Codes, also for Liberalisation of tropical products; subsequently negotiations on issues such as Quantitative Restrictions, Subsidies, Dispute Settlement Rules, and on the Safeguard Clause.
5. 1979-82: Responsible for GATT affairs in DG I (especially conclusion and implementation of MTN results, Greek Accession). Additional responsibilities since September 1979 for OECD work in field of international trade policy, particularly developments in the area of trade in services.
6. Since June 1982: Director in DG I responsible for GATT and OECD (trade policy) matters, and for international trade aspects of agricultural policy. In this capacity closely involved in the 1982 GATT Ministerial Meeting and the work programme which resulted, in the annual OECD Ministerial sessions (trade policy aspects), and in such informal meetings as the Quadrilateral Meetings of Trade Ministers.
7. Since 1986: Member of the Commission Steering Group in the policy direction of the Uruguay Round, covering all aspects of the negotiations. Particular responsibility for questions arising out of the Accession of Spain and Portugal.