



# 62nd Plenary Meeting of the INTERNATIONAL COTTON ADVISORY COMMITTEE

## MINUTES

### SECOND PLENARY SESSION (C)

11:00 AM, Wednesday September 10, 2003  
Mr. Mirosław Lewinski in the Chair

The CHAIR called the meeting to order and gave the floor to the delegate of ITALY. The delegate thanked the Polish government for its exquisite hospitality. He said that Italy attaches great relevance to the role of the ICAC as an international forum for all issues related to cotton and appreciates ICAC statistics. Italy is particularly sensitive to the sectorial initiative of some African countries, and as current President of the Council of the EU, is striving hard to find, within the WTO framework, acceptable solutions for all actors involved. He explained that the EU, a net importer of cotton, has privileged economic and trade relations with ACP countries.

The CHAIR recognized the delegate of BELGIUM who referred delegates to the country statement in circulation. He expressed his support for the EU position regarding world trade negotiations and the African initiative in favor of cotton. He concluded by stressing the importance of finding a satisfactory and long-lasting solution to the problem of arrears in assessment payments so as to preserve the recognized efficiency of the ICAC.

The CHAIR gave the floor to the delegate of POLAND. The delegate reported that imports and consumption of cotton declined in 2002 and explained why. Central Asia remains the largest supplier of cotton in Poland. The delegate described the progress of privatization of the textile industry. He indicated that the Polish cotton sector is not supported by the government and that there are no barriers to trade in cotton products.

The CHAIR recognized the delegate of GREECE who reported that cotton area is almost unchanged this season, 360,000 hectares cultivated by about 100,000 farmers. The national policy aims at restricting the area devoted to cotton because of shrinking water resources and environmental concerns. The quality of cotton was very good last season, and 1/3 of production is consumed domestically. The long-term objective is to stabilize cotton production at the present level.

The CHAIR recognized the delegate of BURKINA FASO who described the importance of cotton in the economy of his country. As in many African countries, cotton plays a strategic role for the development and the reduction of poverty. However, these efforts are being compromised by subsidies to cotton producers in some developed countries. Hence, the initiative taken by Burkina Faso and 3 other West and Central African countries to find appropriate solutions. The delegate thanked all organizations and governments who support this initiative for more justice in international trade.

The CHAIR gave the floor to the delegate of the UNITED KINGDOM. The delegate said that he was in agreement with virtually all proposals made by the PSAP. However, he suggested that country statements could include a one-page summary and that all presentations could be made in just one session with a two-minute time limit for each.

The CHAIR thanked all delegates for having delivered their statements in a disciplined manner. He said that there were a total of 32 statements presented, 27 by member governments and 5 by international organizations.

The CHAIR adjourned the session at 11: 30am.