



Multilateral Guidelines (Extract
from the Annex to the Decision
establishing a Steel Committee)

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Date(s)

Adopted on 26/10/1978
Amended on 04/11/2008
Amended on 12/11/2013

Background Information

The Multilateral Guidelines are part of the Annex to the Decision establishing a Steel Committee, which was adopted on 26 October 1978. They are included as “commitments” of Members and Associates of the Steel Committee in the mandate of the Steel Committee. The Guidelines aim to facilitate needed structural adjustment in the steel sector that reduces pressure for trade actions and promotes rational allocation of productive resources.

“III. Commitments

4. Members and Associates in the Steel Committee agree to the following guidelines:

- a) To abstain from destructive competition in official support of export credit; they agree that their policies in the field of export credits for steel plant and equipment will be fully consistent with the Arrangement on Guidelines for Officially Supported Export Credits and contribute to the avoidance of competitive subsidisation of such exports.
- b) Domestic policies to sustain steel firms during crisis periods should not shift the burden of adjustment to other countries and thus increase the likelihood of restrictive trade actions by other countries (e.g. by artificially stimulating exports or by artificially displacing imports). Further, as a general rule, domestic measures should not prevent marginal facilities from closing in those instances where the facilities cannot become commercially viable within a reasonable period of time.
- c) To make every effort to provide effective programmes for steel worker readaptation away from facilities affected by structural adjustments into alternative employment. To this end, they will periodically exchange information on the effectiveness of policies and programmes to assist steel workers and communities.
- d) To report promptly any action to restrict trade in steel-making materials and allow for consultation with affected parties.”

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