

EC/FRANCE - TRADING ARRANGEMENTS WITH MOROCCO

Extension of Waiver

Decision of 10 December 1997<sup>1</sup>

*Noting* that, following a request by the European Communities, the General Council, by Decision of 14 October 1996<sup>2</sup>, extended until the entry into force of the Euro-Mediterranean Agreement establishing an association between the European Communities and their member States, of the one part, and the Kingdom of Morocco, of the other part, or until 31 December 1997, whichever the earlier, the waiver granted for France's preferential trading arrangements with Morocco by Decision of the CONTRACTING PARTIES of 10 November 1960<sup>3</sup>.

*Noting* that the waiver applies to the provisions of paragraph 1 of Article I of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), to the extent necessary to permit France to apply duty-free tariff quotas to a number of products originating in parts of the territory of the Kingdom of Morocco not covered by the provisions of paragraphs 2 and 4 of Article I of the GATT;

*Bearing in mind* that the Decision of 14 October 1996 was taken without prejudice to the right of the European Communities to request a renewal of the waiver, should this prove necessary;

*Having been informed* by the European Communities that it is unlikely that all of their member States will ratify the Euro-Mediterranean Agreement with Morocco before 31 December 1997;

*Taking note* of the request<sup>4</sup> of the European Communities, made in accordance with paragraph 1 of the Understanding in respect of Waivers and paragraph 3 of Article IX of the WTO Agreement, to extend the waiver until the entry into force of the Euro-Mediterranean Agreement establishing an association between the European Communities and their member States, of the one part, and the Kingdom of Morocco, of the other part, or until 31 December 1998, whichever is the earlier;

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<sup>1</sup> Adopted in accordance with the Decision-Making Procedures under Articles IX and XII of the WTO Agreement agreed by the General Council (WT/L/93).

<sup>2</sup> WT/L/187 of 18 October 1996.

<sup>3</sup> BISD 9S/39.

<sup>4</sup> G/L/196.

*Considering* that no changes have occurred in the measures for which the extension of the waiver is requested, in the specific policy objectives pursued, or in the continued existence of the exceptional circumstances justifying the waiver<sup>5</sup>.

*Considering* that the terms and conditions attached to the extended waiver have been complied with;

*Taking into account* that the European Communities have provided assurances that they will, upon request, promptly enter into consultations with any interested WTO Member with respect to any difficulty or matter that may arise as a result of the extension of the waiver;

*Noting* that this request has been made by the European Communities without prejudice to their right to request a further extension of the waiver before the end of 1998, should this prove necessary;

Members, acting pursuant to the provisions of paragraph 2 of the Understanding in respect of Waivers and paragraphs 3 and 4 of Article IX of the WTO Agreement.

*Decide* that:

1. The waiver for the Trading Arrangements with Morocco granted by paragraph 1 of the Decision of the CONTRACTING PARTIES of 19 November 1960<sup>6</sup>, extended by Decision of the General Council of 14 October 1996<sup>7</sup>, is further extended until the entry into force of the Euro-Mediterranean Agreement establishing an association between the European Communities and their member States, of the one part, and the Kingdom of Morocco, of the other part, or until 31 December 1998, whichever the earlier, subject to the terms and conditions set out under the above-mentioned Decision of 14 October 1996.

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<sup>5</sup> G/L/109 of 9 September 1996.

<sup>6</sup> BISD 9S/39.

<sup>7</sup> WT/L/187 of 18 October 1996.