

**INTRODUCTION OF HARMONIZED SYSTEM 1996 CHANGES
INTO WTO SCHEDULES OF TARIFF CONCESSIONS**

PARAGUAY – SCHEDULE XCI

Request for a Waiver

The following communication, dated 22 February 2002, has been received from the Permanent Mission of Paraguay.

I have the honour to refer to the negotiations that took place in the WTO Committee on Market Access for the introduction of Harmonized System changes into the schedules of tariff concessions annexed to the WTO Agreement on 1 January 1996.

According to the Decision adopted by the WTO General Council on 10 May 2001 (document WT/L/400), the negotiations and consultations are to be completed by 30 April 2002, the date on which the extension of the collective waiver of obligations under Article II of the GATT ends.

Since the reservations made by two delegations with respect to Paraguay's Schedule XCI are still in place, we hereby request a waiver from 30 April 2002 to 30 April 2003 in order to be able to continue the consultations currently under way and to conclude them as rapidly as possible.

This request is made pursuant to Article IX:3 of the WTO Agreement, and is submitted together with the factual information requested by the Secretariat in its communication of 5 February 2002 as agreed at the meeting of the Committee on Market Access on 18 February 2002.

Date of the original waiver	Decision of 13 December 1995 (WT/L/124)
Date of submission of documents relevant to the HS implementation	23 October 1996 (G/SECRET/HS96/29)
Number of extensions and dates when granted	Decision of 18 July 1996 (WT/L/173) Decision of 24 April 1997 (WT/L/216) Decision of 22 October 1997 (WT/L/243) Decision of 24 April 1998 (WT/L/268) Decision of 14 October 1998 (WT/L/281) Decision of 15 June 1999 (WT/L/303) Decision of 4 November 1999 (WT/L/338) Decision of 3 May 2000 (WT/L/351) Decision of 8 December 2000 (WT/L/379) Decision of 8 May 2001 (WT/L/400)
Number of countries with which Article XXVIII negotiations have been initiated	(4) Australia, Canada, United States and European Communities
Number of countries with which Article XXVIII negotiations have been concluded	(2) Canada (3 October 2000) Australia (25 September 2001)
Status of outstanding Article XXVIII negotiations as well as a general outline of relevant problems	United States: on 15 February 2002 the US requested further details on the proposal submitted. European Communities: awaiting corrections to certain headings (made an oral request in this respect at the meeting of the Committee on 15 February 2002)
Outlook for concluding the process	It is hoped that the consultations will shortly be concluded
