

Committee on Market Access

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**PERIODIC REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE TO THE
COUNCIL FOR TRADE IN GOODS**

1. The Committee met on 23 March 2000 and examined the following issues:
2. [On 13 December 1995, several Members were granted individual waivers for the introduction of HS96 changes (WT/L/124 + Corr.1); for operational reasons the waivers were grouped into one single decision. These waivers were extended by successive decisions by the General Council until 30 April 2000 (WT/L/338). At its meeting of 23 March 2000, the Committee took note of the requests for further extension of, or inclusion in, the waiver to carry out possible consultations/negotiations under Article XXVIII after the introduction of HS96 changes in national tariffs. This information is summarized in Annex I of the report.]
3. [The Committee took note of the factual information provided by the Members under current waivers regarding the transposition into the Harmonized System or the renegotiation of their schedules. This information is summarized in Annex II of this report.]
4. [The Committee examined the situation related to the submission of HS96 documentation set out in document G/MA/TAR/2/Rev.21. It was noted that out of the [...] Members under waivers, only [...] schedules had been finalized and [...] Members had not yet submitted the required documentation.]
5. [With reference to the modalities and operation of the Integrated Data Base, the Committee examined the status of IDB submissions on the basis of the document G/MA/IDB/2/Rev.7. As of 23 March 2000, [...] Members and [...] acceding countries had provided IDB submissions. The Secretariat presented an oral report on the status of processing of IDB submissions and the status of software development. The Committee began its review of the operation of the IDB and IDB technical assistance activities on the basis of document G/MA/IDB/W/4]
6. [The Committee began its review of paragraph 1 of the Understanding on the Interpretation of Article XXVIII of GATT 1994.]

7. [The Secretariat gave a progress report on the Consolidated Tariff Schedules Database Project.]

8. [The Committee took note of the tariff information available in the Secretariat as contained in document G/MA/TAR/3/Rev.5.]

The report will be completed in light of the discussion that will take place at the Committee's meeting on 23 March 2000.

ANNEX I**REQUESTS FOR INCLUSION IN AND EXTENSION OF THE HS96 WAIVERS**

Country	Document (G/SECRET/HS96 series)	Reservations (Number of countries)	Reasons for requesting waiver or extension of waiver
ARGENTINA	/30	4	Extension needed to finalize consultations and negotiations with various Members having general reservations.
BOLIVIA	/42	1	Extension needed to finalize consultations with one Member having raised objections.
BRAZIL	/36 + Corr.1 + 2	5	Extension needed to conclude consultations with Members having raised specific reservations. Additionally, one general reservation has not been specified.
BRUNEI DARUSSALAM	/14 + Rev.1	2	Extension needed in view of the general reservations received from two Members.
BULGARIA			Extension needed to finalize documentation and to allow for consultations with interested Members as may be necessary.
COSTA RICA	/37 + Add.1	1	Extension needed to finalize consultations.
EGYPT	G/MA/TAR/RS/50/Rev.1 ¹	2	Extension needed to continue the process of consultations with Members who have already received replies from Egypt to their questions and comments.
EL SALVADOR			Extension needed as documentation has just been submitted to the Secretariat for verification.
HONDURAS	/43 (to be issued)		Extension needed as documentation has to be circulated and additional time may be needed for consultations with Members, as necessary.
ICELAND	/38 + Corr.1 + Add.1	2	Extension needed to finalize consultations and possible negotiations under Article XXVIII.
INDIA	/8 + Corr.1	1	Extension needed in light of a general reservation which is still existing on India's proposed amendments.
ISRAEL	/26 + Add.1	3	Extension needed as consultations need to be finalized with one Member. Additionally, earlier reservations which were general in their nature have neither been specified or lifted.
MALAYSIA	/31 + Rev.1	2	Extension needed to conclude consultations.

¹ Contains also rectifications to the schedule.

Country	Document (G/SECRET/HS96 series)	Reservations (Number of countries)	Reasons for requesting waiver or extension of waiver
MEXICO			Extension needed due to technical difficulties encountered in completing documentation which is required for any relevant consultations or negotiations.
NEW ZEALAND	/20 + Corr.1	2	Extension needed to allow more time to resolve questions raised on New Zealand's schedule by two Members.
NORWAY	/11	3	Extension needed to complete consultations.
PAKISTAN	/40	3	Extension needed to complete bilateral negotiations.
PANAMA			Extension needed as technical problems have been encountered in the preparation of correlation tables between HS92 and HS96.
PARAGUAY	/29	4	Extension needed to conclude consultations and negotiations with Members having raised general reservations.
SLOVENIA	/23 + Corr.1	1	Extension needed to conclude consultations and negotiations with one Member.
SWITZERLAND	/10	1	Extension needed to conclude ongoing consultations.
URUGUAY	/28	3	Extension needed to conclude consultations and negotiations with one Member having a general reservation.
VENEZUELA	/12 + Rev. 1	1	Extension needed to conclude negotiations with one Member having a general reservation.

ANNEX II

FACTUAL INFORMATION RELATED TO THE EXTENSION OF WAIVERS RELATED TO THE TRANSPOSITION OF SCHEDULES INTO THE HARMONIZED SYSTEM

Country	Date of original waiver	Date of submission of HS documentation	N° of extensions and dates	N° of countries with which Article XXVIII negotiations have been initiated	N° of countries with which Article XXVIII negotiations have been concluded	Status of outstanding Article XXVIII negotiations	Outlook for concluding the process	Request for extension and draft decision
1. Nicaragua	26.01.1998	28.06.1995 G/SECRET/HS/3	Nine: 09.12.1994 13.12.1995 18.07.1996 24.04.1997 22.10.1997 24.04.1998 14.10.1998 15.06.1999 ³ 04.11.1999	Two	One	Nicaragua gave the information requested by the interested Member and also presented a proposal which is being studied by this Member.	In constant consultations with the Member concerned in order to conclude as soon as possible the negotiations.	Extension requested G/L/351 G/C/W/189
2. Sri Lanka	08.11.1988	12.01.1990 SECRET/HS/26	Twenty: 24.07.1989 16.07.1990 07.12.1990 01.07.1991 04.12.1991 20.07.1992 03.12.1992 19.07.1993 17.01.1994 21.07.1994 09.12.1994 31.08.1995 13.12.1995 18.07.1996 16.07.1997 22.10.1997 24.04.1998 14.10.1998 15.06.1999 ³ 04.11.1999	Five	Two	Following its most recent initiative, clarification and finalization of documents remain to be completed with one Member. Sri Lanka has sought clarification on the status of the reservations made by the remaining two Members.	Continues to make every effort to conclude negotiations.	Extension requested G/L/350 G/C/W/188

Country	Date of original waiver	Date of submission of HS documentation	N° of extensions and dates	N° of countries with which Article XXVIII negotiations have been initiated	N° of countries with which Article XXVIII negotiations have been concluded	Status of outstanding Article XXVIII negotiations	Outlook for concluding the process	Request for extension and draft decision
3. Zambia	26.11.1993	12.03.1996 G/SECRET/HS/8	Eight: 13.12.1995 18.07.1996 24.04.1997 22.10.1997 24.04.1998 14.10.1998 15.06.1999 ³ 04.11.1999	Two	-	Waiting to receive responses from the two Members regarding a modified schedule sent to them by Zambia.	Bright	Extension requested G/L/352 G/C/W/190