

HARMONIZATION OF RULES OF ORIGIN

The following communication was sent by the Chairman of the Committee on Rules of Origin on 16 September 1996 to the Chairman of the Technical Committee on Rules of Origin, as agreed by the Committee on Rules of Origin at its meeting on 13 September 1996.

"The Committee on Rules of Origin met on 13 September 1996. In conformity with paragraph 3(a) of Article 9 of the Agreement on Rules of Origin, it considered the interpretations and opinions of the Technical Committee on Rules of Origin contained in the Fourth Report of the Technical Committee on Rules of Origin to the Committee on Rules of Origin.

The Committee then decided as follows:

1. The Committee noted the Report of the Fourth Session of the Technical Committee on Rules of Origin. It welcomed the Report made by the Chairman of the Technical Committee, present at the meeting, in particular with regard to the emphasis on informal procedures and approaches being developed to accelerate progress under Phase II of the Work Programme. Members were also satisfied with the emphasis on the development of common terminologies and approaches to facilitate work in Phase II. In this regard, the informal meeting in Ottawa was welcomed. The Committee was informed that the Fifth Session would give consideration to the INT and its contents. As a result of earlier informal consultations, the Committee also agreed to transmit to the Technical Committee the request to further examine and clarify with a view to possibly defining the following terms when used in the context of wholly obtained or produced: processing, further processing and manufacturing.

2. Recalling its letters dated 20 July 1995 and 21 May 1996 to the Chairman of the Technical Committee on Rules of Origin, and noting that three meetings have already been scheduled for 1996, the Committee reaffirmed the necessity of adhering to the provisions of the Agreement, with a view to submitting the results of its work to the Committee at least on a quarterly basis. To this end, the Committee requests the Technical Committee to take account of the provisions of the Agreement.

I should therefore be grateful if you would kindly refer the foregoing positions, requests and observations to the Technical Committee on Rules of Origin.

Please accept, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration."