

INTRODUCTION OF HARMONIZED SYSTEM CHANGES INTO WTO
SCHEDULES OF TARIFF CONCESSIONS ON 1 JANUARY 1996

Extension of Time-Limit

Decision of 24 April 1997¹

Members,

Considering that the Members of the WTO, by their Decisions of 13 December 1995 and 18 July 1996², acting pursuant to the provisions of paragraph 3 of Article IX of the WTO Agreement, suspended the application of the provisions of Article II of GATT 1994 until 30 April 1997, for the purpose of enabling the Members listed in the Annex to implement the recommended amendments to the Harmonized System nomenclature.

Noting that the Members listed in the Annex have either requested to be included under the waiver, or have requested an extension of the waiver for reasons explained in their requests;

Considering that the Members concerned would need more time to proceed with consultations or possible Article XXVIII negotiations, in particular also in light of general reservations made by the other Members,

Acting pursuant to the provisions of paragraph 3 of Article IX of the WTO Agreement,

Decide, in view of the exceptional circumstances, to suspend the application of the provisions of Article II of GATT 1994, until 31 October 1997, for the purpose of enabling the Members listed in the Annex to implement the recommended amendments to the Harmonized System nomenclature, subject to the following conditions:

- (i) the Member concerned shall have submitted the documentation required under paragraph 2 of the simplified procedures adopted by the GATT 1947 Committee on Tariff Concessions to implement changes in the Harmonized System³; or if special circumstances apply, the Member concerned shall have requested technical assistance from the Secretariat for the completion of such documentation.
- (ii) the Member concerned shall, where necessary, promptly enter into negotiations and consultations with interested Members pursuant to paragraphs 1-3 of Article XXVIII of GATT 1994;

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

²WT/L/124 + Corr.1 and WT/L/173.

³BISD 39S/300.

- (iii) the negotiations and consultations mentioned above shall be completed not later than 31 October 1997;
- (iv) pending the entry into force of the results of the negotiations or consultations mentioned above, the other Members will be free to suspend concessions initially negotiated with the Member concerned to the extent that they consider that adequate compensation is not offered by the Member concerned.

ANNEX

1. MEMBERS WHICH HAVE REQUESTED AN EXTENSION OF THE TIME-LIMIT OF
THE ABOVE WAIVER

Argentina
Australia
Brazil
Brunei Darussalam
Canada
Colombia
Costa Rica
Cuba
Czech Republic
Egypt
El Salvador
European Communities
Honduras
Hungary
Iceland
India
Indonesia
Israel
Korea
Malaysia
Mexico
Norway
Paraguay
Philippines
Poland
Singapore
Slovak Republic
Slovenia
South Africa
Switzerland
Thailand
Tunisia
Turkey
United States
Uruguay
Venezuela
Zimbabwe

2. ADDITIONAL MEMBERS WHICH HAVE REQUESTED TO BE COVERED BY THE
WAIVER UNDER THE ABOVE DECISION

Pakistan
Romania