

EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES – TRANSITIONAL REGIME FOR THE EC AUTONOMOUS TARIFF RATE QUOTAS ON IMPORTS OF BANANAS

Decision of 14 November 2001

The Ministerial Conference,

Having regard to the Guiding Principles to be followed in considering applications for waivers adopted on 1 November 1956, the Understanding in Respect of Waivers of Obligations under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade 1994, and paragraphs 3 and 4 of Article IX of the Marrakesh Agreement Establishing the World Trade Organization (hereinafter "WTO Agreement");

Taking note of the request of the European Communities for a waiver from its obligations under paragraphs 1 and 2 of Article XIII of the GATT 1994 with respect to bananas;

Taking note of the understandings reached by the EC, Ecuador and the United States that identify the means by which the longstanding dispute over the EC's banana regime can be resolved, in particular their provision for a temporary global quota allocation for ACP banana supplying countries under specified conditions;

Taking into account the exceptional circumstances surrounding the resolution of the bananas dispute and the interests of many WTO Members in the EC banana regime;

Recognizing the need to afford sufficient protection to the ACP banana supplying countries, including the most vulnerable, during a limited transition period, to enable them to prepare for a tariff-only regime;

Noting assurances given by the EC that it will, upon request, promptly enter into consultations with any interested member with respect to any difficulty or matter that may arise as a result of the implementation of the tariff rate quota for bananas originating in ACP States;

Considering that, in light of the foregoing, the exceptional circumstances justifying a waiver from paragraphs 1 and 2 of Article XIII of the GATT 1994 with respect to bananas exist;

Decides as follows:

1. With respect to the EC's imports of bananas, as of 1 January 2002, and until 31 December 2005, paragraphs 1 and 2 of Article XIII of the GATT 1994 are waived with respect to the EC's separate tariff quota of 750,000 tonnes for bananas of ACP origin.
2. The EC will, upon request, promptly enter into consultations with any interested member with respect to any difficulty or matter that may arise as a result of the implementation of the separate tariff rate quota for bananas originating in ACP States covered by this waiver; where a Member considers that any benefit accruing to it under the GATT 1994 may be or is being

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impaired unduly as a result of such implementation, such consultations shall examine the possibility of action for a satisfactory adjustment of the matter.

3. Any Member which considers that the separate tariff rate quota for bananas originating in ACP States covered by this waiver is being applied inconsistently with this waiver or that any benefit accruing to it under the GATT 1994 may be or is being impaired unduly as a result of the implementation of the separate tariff rate quota for bananas originating in ACP States covered by this waiver and that consultations have proved unsatisfactory, may bring the matter before the General Council, which will examine it promptly and will formulate any recommendations that they judge appropriate.
 4. This waiver shall not preclude the right of affected members to have recourse to Articles XXII and XXIII of the GATT 1994.
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