

**Committee on Rules of Origin**

REPORT (1997) OF THE COMMITTEE ON RULES OF ORIGIN

1. Participation in the Committee on Rules of Origin (the Committee) is open to all WTO Members. Observer governments in the General Council of the WTO have observer status in the Committee. In addition, representatives of the ACP, EFTA, IADB, IMF, ITCB, OECD, UNCTAD, WCO and the World Bank attend meetings of the Committee in an observer capacity.

2. The Committee held four meetings on 6 February, 15 May, 3 October and 21 November 1997 (G/RO/M/9, 10, 11 and 12). The Committee at its meeting in May elected Ms. Lourdes A. Berrig (Philippines) as Chairperson and Mr. Andreas A. Gaarder (Norway) as Vice-Chairman for 1997.

3. In connection with the Harmonization Work Programme for the harmonization of non-preferential rules of origin, as set out in Part IV of the Agreement on Rules of Origin (the Agreement), the Committee:

- reviewed five Reports from the Technical Committee on Rules of Origin (the Technical Committee) to the Committee (G/RO/9, 11, 15, 18 and 19);
- welcomed, at the meeting in May, adoption of the Management Plan for 1997 by the Technical Committee which was aimed at ensuring the timely completion of the technical work;
- endorsed, at the meeting in October, the product-specific rules concerning Chapters 25-27, 41, 43 and 91 which had been referred to the Committee as Basket 1 decisions from the Technical Committee, keeping in mind, however, that in accordance with Article 9.3(b) of the Agreement, the Committee should finally consider the results of the Harmonization Work Programme in terms of their overall coherence (see G/RO/W/22). The Committee also reached consensus on the origin criterion of subheading 4302.30;
- at the meeting in November, the Committee reached consensus on the origin criteria of split headings ex 2530(b), ex 2601(a) to ex 2617(a), and subheadings 2701.20, 2708.20, 4102.21 and 4102.29 as well as headings 4201, 4204, 4205 and 4206.

4. Pursuant to Article 5.1 and paragraph 4 of Annex II of the Agreement, all Members are required to notify their rules of origin, judicial decisions and administrative rulings of general application relating to rules of origin. To date, 56 Members have made notifications relating to non-preferential rules of origin and 58 Members have made notifications relating to preferential rules of origin.