

Committee on Market Access

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

1. The Committee met on 5 October 1999 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 31 October 1999 (WT/L/303). At its meeting of 5 October 1999, 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. Japan informed the Committee of a proposal that it intended to make to the Council for Trade in Goods concerning waiver extensions. The Committee took note of the views expressed by Members on the proposal and agreed that the Chairman consult on this subject.
5. The Committee examined the situation related to the submission of HS96 documentation set out in document G/MA/TAR/2/Rev.20. It noted that out of the 31 Members currently under waivers, 7 Members had not yet submitted the required documentation, the submission of one Member was finalized, and the submissions of 23 Members were still pending due to ongoing consultations and/or negotiations. The submissions of two Members, which had not requested an extension of their waivers, were also pending.
6. With reference to the modalities and operation of the Integrated Data Base (IDB), the Committee examined the status of IDB submissions on the basis of the document G/MA/IDB/2/Rev.6. As of 27 September 1999, 65 Members and 3 acceding countries had provided IDB submissions. The Secretariat presented an oral report on the status of processing of IDB submissions, the status of software development and the technical assistance activities that had been carried out since the last report.
7. Singapore, on behalf of the APEC Market Access Group (MAG), informed the Committee that the MAG had reversed its decision and that there was no need anymore to request a mirror site of the IDB.
8. The Committee took note of the status of notifications of quantitative restrictions (G/MA/NTM/QR/1/Add 6), and of the report by the Secretariat on the work undertaken so far on the consolidated tariff schedules database project.

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 reservations.
AUSTRALIA	/19 + Corr.1	2	Extension needed in order to finalize and submit a notification.
BRAZIL	/36 + Corr.1 + 2	4	Extension needed to conclude consultations.
BRUNEI DARUSSALAM	/14 + Rev.1	2	Extension needed to conclude consultations.
BULGARIA			Extension needed to finalize documentation and to allow for consultations.
COSTA RICA	/37	2	Extension needed to finalize consultations with the two Members.
EGYPT	G/MA/TAR/RS/50/Rev.1 ¹	2	Extension needed to continue the process of consultations with Members having submitted questions and comments.
EL SALVADOR			Extension needed as certain technical problems have delayed the submission of the documentation.
HONDURAS			Extension needed as certain technical problems have delayed the submission of the documentation, which is in its final stages of preparation.
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 to conclude consultations.
ISRAEL	/26 + Add.1	4	Extension needed as reservations on earlier documentation have not been lifted.
MALAYSIA	/31 + Rev.1	3	Extension needed to conclude consultations.
MALDIVES			Extension needed to follow procedures regarding the introduction of HS96 changes.
MEXICO			Extension needed due to technical difficulties encountered in completing documentation which is required for any relevant consultations or negotiations.

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
MOROCCO			Extension needed as technical difficulties have been encountered in the implementation of the procedures for the introduction of HS96 changes. Documentation is under preparation.
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	2	Extension needed to complete consultations.
PAKISTAN	/40	3	Extension needed to complete bilateral negotiations.
PANAMA			Extension needed as institutional restructuring in Panama has delayed the preparation of documentation.
PARAGUAY	/29	3	Extension needed to conclude consultations and negotiations.
SLOVENIA	/23 + Corr.1	1	Extension needed to conclude consultations and negotiations with one Member.
SWITZERLAND	/10	1	Extension needed to conclude ongoing consultations.
THAILAND	/17 + Rev.1	2	Extension needed to conclude on-going consultations with two Members.
TUNISIA	/25	1	Extension needed to conclude negotiations with one Member.
URUGUAY	/28	1	Extension needed to conclude consultations and negotiations with one Member.
VENEZUELA	/12 + Rev. 1	1	Extension needed to conclude negotiations with one Member.

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. Bangladesh	18.07.1988	06.12.1990 SECRET/HS/29	Twenty: 24.07.1989 05.12.1989 16.07.1990 13.12.1990 12.08.1991 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 24.04.1997 22.10.1997 24.04.1998 14.10.1998 15.06.1999	Four	Three	-	Working to conclude negotiations as early as possible.	Extension requested G/L/324 G/C/W/162
2. Nicaragua	26.01.1994	28.06.1995 G/SECRET/HS/3	Eight: 09.12.1994 13.12.1995 18.07.1996 24.04.1997 22.10.1997 24.04.1998 14.10.1998 15.06.1999	Two	One	Continuing negotiations with the interested Member.	-	Extension requested G/L/320 G/C/W/160

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. Sri Lanka	08.11.1988	12.01.1990 SECRET/HS/26	Nineteen: 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	Five	One	Continues to make every effort to conclude negotiations under Article XXVIII. Following its most recent initiatives in this respect, Sri Lanka is about to conclude negotiations with two Members where only finalization of documents now remains to be formally completed.	Hopeful of concluding its negotiations satisfactorily, before long.	Extension requested G/L/321 G/C/W/161
4. Zambia	26.11.1993	12.03.1996 G/SECRET/HS/8	Seven: 13.12.1995 18.07.1996 24.04.1997 22.10.1997 24.04.1998 14.10.1998 15.06.1999	Two	None	Negotiations to be completed with two Members based on a schedule which was modified following earlier consultations with these two Members.	Bright	Extension requested G/L/329 G/C/W/163