

WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

RESTRICTED

G/TBT/W/17

6 December 1995

(95-3975)

Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade

Original: Spanish

COMMUNICATION FROM ECUADOR

The following communications, dated 1 August and 23 October 1995, have been received from the delegation of Ecuador with the request that they be circulated to Members of the Committee.

The Permanent Mission of Ecuador to the European Office of the United Nations and Other International Organizations at Geneva presents its compliments to Mr. Renato Ruggiero, Director-General of the WTO, and in accordance with the commitment made by Ecuador in the Working Party on its accession to the WTO, has the honour to transmit herewith the notification and annexes thereto concerning the "Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade".¹

The communication of 1 August 1995, contains Ecuador's notification concerning the Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade. The following is a descriptive summary of Decision No. 376 - Andean System of Standardization, Accreditation, Testing, Certification, Technical Regulations and Metrology".

DESCRIPTIVE SUMMARY

DECISION 376 OF THE COMMISSION OF THE CARTAGENA AGREEMENT

ANDEAN SYSTEM OF STANDARDIZATION, ACCREDITATION, TESTING, CERTIFICATION, TECHNICAL REGULATIONS AND METROLOGY

The Andean System of Standardization, Accreditation, Testing, Certification, Technical Regulations and Metrology is established for the purposes of facilitating trade within the subregion.

For that purpose, it will coordinate, develop and harmonize all relevant activities and services, by providing the necessary technical input, taking into account safety, health, conservation of the environment and consumer protection, in order to have an impact at regional and international level.

¹A copy of the notifications and Annexes in question is on file in the WTO Secretariat and can be consulted by interested Members.

The System will be supported by the Subregional Committee for Standardization, Accreditation, Testing, Certification, Technical Regulations and Metrology.

The Member countries will gradually harmonize national provisions or will adopt provisions considered to be of subregional interest in order to establish Andean standards, by creating Andean networks of standardization, national accreditation bodies in Member countries, test laboratories, accredited certification bodies and metrology.

The Member countries may conclude agreements among themselves, solely with the object or for the purpose of promoting, improving, harmonizing or achieving automatic recognition of the systems, regulations, procedures and mechanisms for consultation, in accordance with the provisions of this decision.

An Andean training programme is also established, as well as an information and records centre.

This decision covers all products included in the Common External Tariff.