

# WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

RESTRICTED

**WT/L/54**

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## ACCESSION OF ECUADOR

### Communication from Ecuador

The following communication, dated 3 March 1995, was received from the Permanent Mission of Ecuador.

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The Permanent Mission of Ecuador to the European Office of the United Nations and Other International Organizations at Geneva transmits herewith the note sent by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ecuador concerning the compatibility of Ecuador's foreign trade regime with the WTO Multilateral Agreements, for distribution at the next meeting of the Working Party on the Accession of Ecuador to the GATT/WTO, as requested by the Secretariat.

"1. From the outset of its process of accession to the GATT/WTO, and with all due transparency, Ecuador informed the GATT contracting parties about its foreign trade regime and the relationship between that regime and the new subjects which were being discussed in the Uruguay Round Negotiations at the time when Ecuador began its accession process. Ecuador therefore included in the memorandum on its foreign trade regime specific chapters on the regime in force for trade in services and measures relating to trade and intellectual property, investment and the environment. This document was circulated on 17 May 1993 under symbol L/7202.

2. Subsequently, during the process of submission of questions and answers on its foreign trade regime, Ecuador received a number of questions on issues relating to the Uruguay Round Multilateral Trade Negotiations. These were answered satisfactorily and circulated in documents L/7301 and L/7301/Add.1. These issues were dealt with thoroughly in the meetings of the Working Party, and at the request of contracting parties interested in receiving Ecuador's replies to these concerns in writing, Ecuador submitted additional information in documents Spec(94)1 of 4 February 1994, Spec(94)1/Add.1 of 21 February 1994 and Spec(94)1/Add.2 of 21 April 1994.

3. In addition, Ecuador submitted information for the contracting parties concerning the compatibility of its national rules with those of the GATT/WTO in the areas covered by the TRIPs and TRIMs agreements. This information was circulated in GATT in document L/7488 of 22 June 1994.

4. Ecuador submitted the document entitled **Information Concerning the Uruguay Round Multilateral Trade Agreements**, which was circulated under symbol L/7523 on 5 August 1994. This document explained in detail the consistency of national legislation with the rules of the Multilateral Trade Agreements of the Final Act which were considered important for Ecuador. It also submitted a document with information on import licensing procedures, which was circulated under symbol L/7523/Add.1 on 23 September 1994. This document includes a detailed summary of the national legislation justifying the licensing procedure in a manner that is consistent with the corresponding Uruguay Round Agreement.

5. Finally, Ecuador has dealt with these issues at all meetings of the Working Party whose draft report fully sets forth the explanations given by Ecuador with regard to the consistency of its foreign trade regime with the WTO Multilateral Trade Agreements. That report was originally circulated as document Spec(94)44; the Rev.1 and Rev.2 versions thereof include the changes and clarifications agreed upon by the countries that participated in the Working Party."