

**WORLD TRADE  
ORGANIZATION**

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**TRADE POLICY REVIEW BODY**

Original: English

**TRADE POLICY REVIEW MECHANISM**

**Trade Policy Review of Côte d'Ivoire**

Communication from the Discussants

In pursuance of Annex 3, paragraph C(iv) of the WTO Agreement, the following are outlines of the main points to be raised by Mr. Hervé Jouanjean (European Union) and Mr. Johannes H. Human (South Africa) at the review of Côte d'Ivoire to be held on 4-5 July 1995.

It is recalled that the discussants act in their personal capacity.

(a) Mr. Hervé Jouanjean

- In general, how does the Government intend to retain the competitiveness that resulted from the devaluation?
- The Government expects strong economic growth of up to 8.1 per cent in 1997. What are the main components of this expected expansion and are there indications that growth is occurring as planned?
- How does the Government plan to stimulate private sector growth without affecting price stability, given, for example, the recently observed shortages on domestic markets for certain products?
- Given the existing debt service burden, how does the Government envisage restructuring the budget in order to accompany private sector growth?
- What are the perspectives for further regional integration and their likely effect on Côte d'Ivoire's trade flows? What will be the relationship between WAEMU and ECOWAS?

(b) Mr. Johannes H. Human

The reform of the trading system

Imports of goods

1. Recently there has been an important liberalization of the trading system in Côte d'Ivoire through the lowering of tariffs. Are there any future plans/programmes to simplify the structure of the Tariff, for example the consolidation of the four different import duties?

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2. While all tariffs have been bound in the agricultural sector, only a few industrial products have had their tariffs bound. Are there any plans to extend the scope of the bindings on industrial products?

3. Given the very open public procurement régime in Côte d'Ivoire, does Côte d'Ivoire intend to become a member of the WTO Agreement on Government Procurement?

#### Export of Goods

4. Some export sectors appear to be set for deregulation and privatization (e.g. rubber), while government intervention continues to dominate others (e.g. coffee, cocoa). What are the current policies of Côte d'Ivoire regarding State trading and export monopolies? Does the Government intend to continue controlling official pricing and international marketing, for example in the markets for cocoa, coffee and cotton?

5. Will reference prices for cocoa exports remain to be guaranteed? If the Caistab maintains its export monopoly, how will the Government avoid/manage potentially wide discrepancies between guaranteed prices to exporters and those effectively obtained on world markets?

6. Are there any plans regarding the possible diversification of the export market for cocoa in the light of the recent changes to EU regulations that might affect the export of cocoa to the European Union?

#### Trade in Services

7. What are the pricing policies in the oil distribution, electricity and water sectors? What mechanisms ensure that high prices do not translate into high input costs and thereby hamper exports?

8. What have been the recent reforms in the area of maritime transport and how have these affected the conditions of trade in this sector?