

Original: English

1996 CHANGES IN THE HARMONIZED SYSTEM

Submission of Documentation

Schedule LXXX - European Communities

The following communication, dated 3 August 1995, has been received from the Permanent Delegation of the European Communities.

Pursuant to the procedures to implement changes in the Harmonized System, the European Communities notify you the proposed changes¹ in the combined nomenclature of the EC which will enter into effect on 1 January 1996.

Below you will find the proposed revisions of the harmonized tariff schedule of the European Communities necessary to implement the HS 1996 changes along with the concordance tables between former Schedule LXXX of the European Communities of 12 and the proposed new headings.

1. In its communication of 15 December 1994 (L/7614) the European Community announced its intention to withdraw all the tariff commitments previously made by Austria in Schedule XXXII, Finland in Schedule XXIV, Sweden in Schedule XXX and the European Community of 12 in Schedule LXXX. Following the formal enlargement to a European Community of 15, this withdrawal, which covers all tariff commitments made in whatsoever time-frame or nomenclature, became effective from 1 January 1995.

2. As stated pending completion of the Article XXIV procedures, the tariff commitments in the previous Schedule LXXX of the European Community of 12 are being respected.

3. Annex 1:

The consolidated list of the bound duties of the former European Community of 12 comprises previous Schedule LXXX attached to the Marrakech Protocol with the addition of the tariff quotas

¹English only.

listed in the attachment to this document which had already been bound at lower rates. This consolidated list is the basis on which the transpositions into the HS 1996 nomenclature have been made.

4. Annex II:

The Schedule of the Community of 15 will take into account the outcome of the ongoing XXIV:6 negotiations. It will be based on HS 1996 nomenclature. For the convenience of WTO members in the context of the notification requirements on HS 1996 transpositions, Annex II contains a draft version of the proposed nomenclature in the 1996 CN tariff for all 4-digit headings affected by HS 1996 changes. The document also shows the related headings in the Marrakech Schedule of the former EC 12 together with the UR base rate and final rate.

5. Annex III and Annex IV:

Concordance tables between the consolidated list mentioned in Annex 1 and the headings in the proposed 1996 CN tariff (Annex II) affected by HS 1996 have been prepared.

6. Annex V:

This document lists all cases contained in Annex II where a 1996 heading involves transpositions from two or more previous headings with different rates of duty. In such cases as the document shows the lowest rate of duty will normally be applied. The only exceptions are cases where any likely trade under the lower rate is theoretical or negligible.

7. WTO members wishing to have consultations concerning the transpositions indicated in Annex II are invited to notify the Permanent Delegation of the European Community in writing with a copy to the WTO Secretariat, within 90 days indicating the products and tariff heading numbers concerned.

If no objection is notified to the Secretariat within ninety days from the date of this document, the changes to Schedule LXXX - European Communities will be deemed to be approved and will be formally certified.