

WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

RESTRICTED

G/STR/Q1/BRB/1

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(96-2447)

Working Party on State Trading Enterprises

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QUESTIONS POSED BY THE UNITED STATES CONCERNING THE ARTICLE XVII NOTIFICATION OF BARBADOS¹

The following communication, dated 18 June 1996, has been received from the Permanent Mission of the United States.

1. We note that the Barbados Agricultural Development Corporation (BADMCO) has a monopoly right to import chicken, and that "poultry products, particularly chicken and turkey wings are not produced in sufficient quantities to meet domestic requirements. As a consequence, this shortfall is compensated by imports. The level of imports is such that it does not impact on the sales of local products."

Would Barbados explain the factors determining the quantity of poultry imports by the BADMC. For example, does the BADMC plan well in advance for imports or determine the need to import on an ad hoc basis due to adverse weather conditions? How does BADMC determine when to issue tenders to overseas supplies for long-term contracts? For what time periods?

2. We note that the BADMC has the monopoly right to import sugar, that "having met the EU quota requirements, the quantity of sugar is determined by the amount of sugar required to satisfy domestic demand" and that "the enterprise imported raw sugar due to the shortfall in national production".

Would Barbados explain the factors determining the quantity on sugar imports by the BADMC? Our understanding of the statements above is that BADMC first fills the EU raw sugar import quota and then determines whether domestic demand requires the BADMC to supplement the remaining domestic sugar supplies with imports. Please clarify how the BADMC determines demand and imports.

3. We note that the BADMC has the monopoly right to import onions, but it "only imports this commodity during the off-season when there is a shortfall of national productions."

Could Barbados explain the factors determining when there is a shortfall of national production, and what market access opportunities exist during the production seasons for onions?

¹G/STR/N/1/BRB.

4. We note that the Barbados Dairy Industries Limited (BDIL) has the monopoly right to import dairy products, and that the quantities to be imported are determined on the basis of domestic demand and supply."

Could Barbados explain the criteria used to determine the quantity to be imported?

5. *We note that Barbados did not supply statistical information on imports or exports of dairy products and national production of chicken and turkey meat. Could Barbados provide this information?*
6. *Please clarify the statistical data submitted to supplement the notification. Are the export and import unit values in Barbadian or US dollars?*