

**Committee on Market Access**

**PERIODIC REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE TO THE  
COUNCIL FOR TRADE IN GOODS**

1. The Committee met on 26 March 2003 and examined the following issues:
2. The Committee took note of the factual information provided by the Members under current waivers regarding the introduction of HS96 changes to their schedules, the establishment of new schedules or the renegotiation of schedules. This information is summarized in Annexes I and II of this report. The Committee approved the requests for waiver extensions and agreed to forward the draft decisions set out in the Annexes to the Council for Trade in Goods (CTG) for appropriate action.
3. The Committee examined the situation related to the submission of HS96 documentation set out in document G/MA/TAR/2/Rev.30. The submissions of nine Members, whether they had requested an extension of waivers or not, remained pending due to ongoing consultations and/or negotiations. The Committee agreed to the Chair's proposal to have another special session of the Committee dedicated to the review of the situation of HS96 submissions based on a revision of the informal list prepared by the Secretariat detailing the situation.
4. The Committee examined the situation related to the circulation of HS2002 documentation set out in document G/MA/TAR/4/Rev.3. The Secretariat updated the Committee on the status of HS2002 work. Japan took the floor to note its recent corrigendum and to encourage further work on this subject.
5. With reference to the modalities and operation of the Integrated Data Base, the Committee examined the status of IDB submissions on the basis of document G/MA/IDB/2/Rev.16 + Corr.1. Since the issuance of the document, new submissions had been received from an additional seven Members. The Secretariat reported on the dissemination, publication of IDB data, technical assistance, improving the coverage of the IDB, and software developments.
6. The Secretariat reported on the status of the Consolidated Tariff Schedules (CTS) Database and updated the Committee on the publication of CTS data, status of file processing, linkages with the IDB, and software for data analysis.
7. The Committee considered the requests for access to the IDB and CTS database from the OECD and FAO favorably. Some delegations noted that they hoped other such future requests could be considered in a similar way.
8. Under other business, the Committee took note of the tariff information available in the Secretariat as contained in document G/MA/TAR/3/Rev.8 + Corr.1 +Corr.2. The Chairperson encouraged Members to submit their most recent tariff information to the tariff library.
9. Under other business, the Committee took note of the status of notifications under the Decision on Notification Procedures for Quantitative Restrictions on the basis of a Secretariat document G/MA/NTM/QR/1/Add.9+Corr.1. The Chairperson reminded delegations that a review of Quantitative Restrictions was scheduled to take place next year, pursuant to the Decision in G/L/59.

10. Under other business, the Committee took note that the date of its next meeting was tentatively scheduled for June, but that the Chair would consult to see if a formal meeting was needed due to the heavy workload in the WTO at that time.

11. The Committee elected its Chairperson, Ms. Jo Lomas (United Kingdom) for 2003. She would hold informal consultations on the vice chairmanship for this year.

## ANNEX I

### FACTUAL INFORMATION RELATING TO WAIVERS REQUESTED FOR THE PURPOSE OF INTRODUCING HS 96 CHANGES TO SCHEDULES OF CONCESSIONS

Member	Date of original waiver	Date of submission of HS documentation	N° of extensions and dates	N° of Members with which Article XXVIII negotiations have been initiated	N° of Members with which Article XXVIII negotiations have been concluded	Status of outstanding Article XXVIII negotiations	Outlook for concluding the process	Request for a waiver and draft decision
1. Argentina	13.12.1995	G/SECRET/HS96/30 (16.10.1996)  G/SECRET/HS96/30/Corr.1 (16.05.2000)	Twelve 18.07.1996 24.04.1997 22.10.1997 24.04.1998 14.10.1998 15.06.1999 04.11.1999 03.05.2000 08.12.2000 08.05.2001 13.05.2002 15.10.2003	Four	Two	Argentina is still holding consultations with the EC and US in respect of some tariff lines.	-	Requested one year. G/L/606 G/C/W/452
2. El Salvador	18.07.1996	G/SECRET/HS96/44 (01.05.2000)  G/SECRET/HS96/44/Corr.1 (12.02.2002)	Eleven 24.04.1997 22.10.1997 24.04.1998 14.10.1998 15.06.1999 04.11.1999 03.05.2000 08.12.2000 08.05.2001 13.05.2002 15.10.2003	Three	Two	The United States should be responding to answers provided by El Salvador and indicating whether it has lifted its reservation.	Hopes to conclude before the expiry of the time-limit of the requested waiver.	Requested 6 months. G/L/608 G/C/W/454

Member	Date of original waiver	Date of submission of HS documentation	N° of extensions and dates	N° of Members with which Article XXVIII negotiations have been initiated	N° of Members with which Article XXVIII negotiations have been concluded	Status of outstanding Article XXVIII negotiations	Outlook for concluding the process	Request for a waiver and draft decision
3. Israel	13.12.1995	G/SECRET/HS96/26 (08.10.1996)  G/SECRET/HS96/26/Add.1 (05.03.1999)  G/SECRET/HS96/26/Add.1/Corr.1 (06.07.2000)	Twelve 18.07.1996 24.04.1997 22.10.1997 24.04.1998 14.10.1998 15.06.1999 04.11.1999 03.05.2000 08.12.2000 08.05.2001 13.05.2002 15.10.2002	Four	Three	On February 2002 Israel submitted its responses to the EC questions and concerns regarding HS 96. On 4 September 2002, the EC specified two further concerns with respect to the answers provided, which Israel will respond as soon as possible.	Israel will do its best will do its best to provide the requested explanations in the shortest possible time, in the hope that this will lead to the removal of the reservation in the near future.	Requested 6 months. G/L/620 G/C/W/462
4. Malaysia	13.12.1995	G/SECRET/HS/96/31 (16.10.1996)  G/SECRET/HS96/31/Rev.1 (31.07.1997)	Eleven 18.07.1996 24.04.1997 22.10.1997 24.04.1998 14.10.1998 15.06.1999 04.11.1999 03.05.2000 08.12.2000 08.05.2001 13.05.2002	Five	Five	All consultations regarding the introduction of HS96 changes into Malaysia's schedule of tariff concessions have been completed	All that remains to be completed now is to notify the corrections to Malaysia's proposed HS96 tariff schedule. Unforeseen circumstances disabled the completion of the remaining work by 30 April 2003.	Requested one year G/L/615 G/C/W/460
5. Morocco	24.04.1998	G/SECRET/HS96/47 (04.12.2000)  G/SECRET/HS96/47/Add.1 (28.03.2001)  G/SECRET/HS96/47/Add.2 (28.05.2001)	Eight 14.10.1998 15.06.1999 04.11.1999 03.05.2000 08.12.2000 08.05.2001 13.05.2002 15.10.2002	Four	One	Morocco is still in the process of negotiating with one Member.	-	Requested 6 months. G/L/616 G/C/W/461

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6. Pakistan	24.04.1997	G/SECRET/HS96/40 (10.12.1998)	Nine 22.10.1997 24.04.1998 14.10.1998 15.06.1999 04.11.1999 03.05.2000 08.12.2000 08.05.2001 13.05.2002	Three	Two	One outstanding Article XXVIII negotiations with the US is still being examined in capital. The reservation made by the US dates back to 1995 and the specific concern was notified on 1 February 2001.	Pakistan is hopeful that the matter will be resolved bilaterally at the earliest.	Requested one year G/L/612 G/C/W/458
7. Panama	24.04.1998	G/SECRET/HS96/48 (04.04.2001)  G/SECRET/HS96/48/ Add.1 (18.03.2002)  G/SECRET/HS96/48/ Rev.1 (4 June 2002)  G/SECRET/HS96/48/ Rev.1/Corr.1 (26.02.03)	Seven 14.10.1998 15.06.1999 04.11.1999 03.05.2000 08.12.2000 08.05.2001 13.05.2002	None (Only corrections were sought by the Members having made reservations)	-	-	Panama is completing the corrections sought by Australia and Canada. It awaits the lifting of the reservation by the US and EC. It hopes to finish the process within the time-period of the requested waiver extension.	Requested one year. G/L/607 G/C/W/453
8. Thailand	13.12.1995	G/SECRET/HS96/17 (14.03.1996)  G/SECRET/HS96/17/ Rev.1 (18.10.1996)  G/SECRET/HS96/17/ Rev.2 (27.11.2001)	Twelve 18.07.1996 24.04.1997 22.10.1997 24.04.1998 14.10.1998 15.06.1999 04.11.1999 03.05.2000 08.12.2000 08.05.2001 13.05.2002 15.10.2002	Four	Negotiations had concluded with all four Members. However, negotiations have been re-initiated with two of those Members.	Thailand is now considering the questions raised by the two Members.	Thailand hopes to provide the answers before the expiry date of the current waiver.	Requested 6 months. G/L/611+Corr.1 G/C/W/457

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9. Venezuela, Bolivarian Republic of	13.12.1995	G/SECRET/HS96/12 (16.01.1996)  G/SECRET/HS96/12/Rev.1 (07.11.1996)	Twelve 18.07.1996 24.04.1997 22.10.1997 24.04.1998 14.10.1998 15.06.1999 04.11.1999 03.05.2000 08.12.2000 08.05.2001 13.05.2002 15.10.2002	Three	Two	One question remains to be resolved with the remaining Member.	Hopes to conclude before the time-limit of the requested waiver expires.	Requested 6 months. G/L/609 G/C/W/455

## ANNEX II

### FACTUAL INFORMATION RELATED TO THE EXTENSION OF WAIVERS FOR THE PURPOSE OF ESTABLISHING A NEW SCHEDULE

Member	Date of original waiver	Date of submission of HS documentation	N° of extensions and dates	N° of Members with which Article XXVIII negotiations have been initiated	N° of Members with which Article XXVIII negotiations have been concluded	Status of outstanding Article XXVIII negotiations	Outlook for concluding the process	Request for an extension and draft decision
1. Sri Lanka	08.11.1988	12.01.1990 SECRET/HS/26	Twenty-six: 24.07.1989 16.07.1990 07.12.1990 01.07.1991 04.12.1991 20.07.1992 03.12.1992 19.07.1993 17.01.1994 21.07.1994 09.12.1994 31.08.1995 13.12.1995 18.07.1996 16.07.1997 22.10.1997 24.04.1998 14.10.1998 15.06.1999 04.11.1999 03.05.2000 08.12.2000 08.05.2001 31.10.2001 13.05.2002 15.10.2002	Five	Four	Sri Lanka continues to make every effort to conclude negotiations under Article XXVIII. The negotiations with the United States are still continuing.	Sri Lanka has had bilateral negotiations with the United States. These negotiations are still continuing. In view of the fact that submissions have been made to the Advisory Committee of the Government of Sri Lanka seeking its approval on tariff bindings to be made, Sri Lanka may require one more extension of time to conclude these negotiations. Sri Lanka also wishes to assure its trading partners that every effort will be made to conclude the negotiations satisfactorily, and in the mutual interest of all concerned, as soon as possible.	Extension of 6 months requested  G/L/610 G/C/W/456