

# WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

G/L/257  
18 September 1998

(98-3598)

Council for Trade in Goods  
1 October 1998

Original: English

## SRI LANKA - ESTABLISHMENT OF A NEW SCHEDULE VI

### Request for Extension of Time-Limit

The following communication, dated 14 September 1998, has been received from the Permanent Mission of Sri Lanka.

I refer to your fax of 27 August 1998 on the above subject. I have been instructed by my authorities to furnish the following information with regard to Sri Lanka's request for extension of time limit for the current waiver which expires on 31 October 1998.

1. Date of original waiver: 8 November 1988<sup>1</sup>.
2. Date of submission of documents relevant to the HS implementation: 12 January 1990<sup>2</sup>.
3. Number of extensions and dates when granted: sixteen extensions, as follows: 24/07/89; 16/07/90; 07/12/90; 01/07/91; 04/12/91; 20/07/92; 03/12/92; 19/07/93; 17/01/94; 21/07/94; 09/12/94; 31/08/95; 13/12/95, 18/07/96, 16/07/97, 22/10/97 and 24/04/1998.
4. Number of countries with which Article XXVIII negotiations have been initiated: four (Australia, European Union, New Zealand and United States).
5. Number of countries with which Article XXVIII negotiations have been concluded: none.
6. Status of outstanding Article XXVIII negotiations as well as a general outline of relevant problems, if any:

Sri Lanka continues to make every effort to conclude negotiations under Article XXVIII. She expects to make a counter offer to one country to progress negotiations.

7. While Sri Lanka is desirous of concluding Article XXVIII negotiations as soon as possible, the situation on the ground regarding the drain on resources both human and financial, consequent on the security situation and the imperative of safeguarding the territorial integrity of the country remains unalleviated. The areas in which counter proposals have been received continue to be politically sensitive in a climate of economic hardship. Further the Commission on Trade and Tariffs has not completed its report on National Tariff Policy in the context of which negotiations will have to be progressed. In the context of the difficulties and constraints Sri Lanka is currently experiencing,

<sup>1</sup> BISD, 35S/22

<sup>2</sup> SECRET/HS/26

given above, the Government of Sri Lanka will be deeply appreciative of a further extension of six months to conclude outstanding negotiations. The Government of Sri Lanka assures its trading partner in these negotiations that every effort will be made to conclude the negotiations satisfactorily and in the mutual interest of all concerned, as soon as possible.

---