

WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

G/L/513
1 March 2002

(02-1039)

Original: English

INTRODUCTION OF HARMONIZED SYSTEM 1996 CHANGES INTO WTO SCHEDULES OF TARIFF CONCESSIONS

ISRAEL -SCHEDULE XLII

Request for a Waiver

The following communication, dated 22 February 2002, has been received from the Permanent Mission of Israel.

Please find herewith the request for a new waiver, on individual basis, with respect to the introduction of HS96 changes in Israel's schedule of concessions.

Israel requests the granting of a waiver with respect to the introduction of HS96 changes in its schedule of concessions. This need is due to the fact that there is still a reservation pending on Israel's documentation, presented by the EC.

The status of Israel's waiver is as follows: WT/L/124 + WT/L/173 + WT/L/216 + WT/L/243 WT/L/268 + WT/L/281 + WT/L/303 + WT/L/338 + WT/L/351 + WT/L/379 + WT/L/400. It is noteworthy that the waiver as well as its extensions was conceded in a collective basis.

In this respect, by decision WT/L/400 of 8 May 2001 the General Council agreed that it would be the last time an extension of HS96 waiver would be granted on a collective basis, but that this would not, however, preclude Members to request waivers on an individual basis.

With respect to the 1996 changes on the Harmonized System- Schedule XLII, Israel has submitted the following documents: G/SECRET/HS96/26 dated 8 October 1996; G/SECRET/HS96/26/Add.1 dated 5 March 1999 and G/SECRET/HS96/26/Add.1/Corr.1 dated 6 July 2000.

In this regard, general reservations were presented by: US (dated 08.11.1996); EC (dated 06.12.1996, and specified concerns on 03.10.2000); Australia (dated 12.12.1996) and Canada (dated 06.01.1997, and specified concerns on 17.02.2000).

The reservations by Australia, Canada and US have been withdrawn or expired. The reservation by the EC is, nevertheless, still pending.

Israel has just responded to EC questions, and is looking forward for its remarks. Israel is willing to answer any further concerns and hopes that this will lead to the removal of the presented reservation in the near future. Moreover, Israel will do its best to complete the whole process before the original date of 30 April 2002. However, if this is not possible, it will most certainly finish the procedure by the expiration date of the new waiver requested, that is, 31 October 2002.