

WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

RESTRICTED

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**Council for Trade in Goods
3 July 1995**

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SRI LANKA - ESTABLISHMENT OF A NEW SCHEDULE VI

Extension of Time-Limit

The following communication, dated 31 May 1995, has been received from the Permanent Mission of Sri Lanka.

I refer to your fax of 22 May 1995 on the above subject. As requested therein, I set out below the factual information concerning the status of Sri Lanka's waiver.

1. Date of original waiver: 8 November 1988¹.
2. Date of submission of documents relevant to the HS implementation: 12 January 1990².
3. Number of extensions and dates when granted: eleven 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.
4. Number of countries with which Article XXVIII negotiations have been initiated: four (Australia, New Zealand, United States and European Union).
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: negotiations have been held with New Zealand and are expected to be concluded within a few weeks. Negotiations were conducted with the EU and the responses from the authorities are awaited to conclude the process. Further negotiations are in progress with Australia. Additional negotiations are due to be held with the United States.
7. Outlook for concluding the process: judging by the good progress already made and further progress due to be made on the negotiations shortly, expectations are that the negotiating process can be completed, at most, within a period of one to two months from now, leaving reasonable time for respective authorities to convey final responses.

Sri Lanka wishes to assure her trading partners that every effort will be made to conclude these negotiations within the next two months, if not earlier. In view of the above situation, the Government of Sri Lanka requests a further extension of the exemption from its obligations under Article II of the General Agreement until 31 December 1995.

¹BISD 35S/22.

²SECRET/HS/26.