

WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

G/L/609
13 March 2003

(03-1470)

Original: Spanish

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

Venezuela - Schedule LXXXVI

Request for a Waiver

The following communication, dated 20 February 2003, has been received from the Permanent Mission of Venezuela.

I have the honour to request an extension of the waiver from the obligations undertaken by Venezuela under Article II of the GATT 1994, for a period of six months.

This request is being made pursuant to the provisions of paragraph 3 of Article IX of the WTO Agreement, in view of the reservations made by the European Communities regarding Schedule LXXXVI proposed by Venezuela, which will prevent the consultation and negotiation procedures referred to in Article XXVIII of the GATT 1994 from being completed on time.

Attached is the factual information requested in your note dated 13 February 2002.

Date of original waiver: Decision of 13 December 1995 (WT/L/124)

Date of submission of documents relevant to the HS implementation:

G/SECRET/HS96/12/Rev.1 (07/11/1996)
G/SECRET/HS96/12 (19/01/1996)

Number of extensions and dates when granted:

	Number	Dates
1	WT/L/173 Extension until 30 April 1997	Decision of 18 July 1996
2	WT/L/216 Extension until 31 October 1997	Decision of 24 April 1997
3	WT/L/243 Extension until 30 April 1998	Decision of 22 October 1997
4	WT/L/268 Extension until 31 October 1998	Decision of 24 April 1998
5	WT/L/281 Extension until 30 April 1999	Decision of 14 October 1998
6	WT/L/303 Extension until 31 October 1999	Decision of 15 June 1999
7	WT/L/338 Extension until 30 April 2000	Decision of 4 November 1999
8	WT/L/351 Extension until 30 October 2000	Decision of 3 May 2000
9	WT/L/379 Extension until 30 April 2001	Decision of 8 December 2000
10	WT/L/400 Extension until 30 April 2002	Decision of 8 May 2001
11	WT/L/457 Extension until 31 October 2002	Decision of 13 May 2002
12	WT/L/491 Extension until 30 April 2003	Decision of 15 October 2002

Number of countries with which Article XXVIII negotiations have been initiated:

Three (3): United States, Australia and European Commission.

Number of countries with which Article XXVIII negotiations have been concluded:

Two (2): United States and Australia.

Status of outstanding Article XXVIII negotiations as well as a general outline of relevant problems, if any:

The European Communities have raised concerns in connection with six tariff headings that were affected by the changeover to the 1996 Harmonized System. To date, the questions pertaining to five out of six of these headings have been dealt with, and only the concerns relating to one heading remain to be solved.

Outlook for concluding the process:

Venezuela expects to be able to conclude the negotiating process before the period of time specified in the request has elapsed.
