

WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

G/L/148

21 February 1997

(97-0726)

RULES OF PROCEDURE FOR MEETINGS OF THE COMMITTEE ON MARKET ACCESS

Approved by the Council for Trade in Goods on 1 December 1995

The Rules of Procedure for meetings of the General Council shall apply *mutatis mutandis* for meetings of the Committee on Market Access, except as provided below:

- (i) Rule 1 of Chapter I (Meetings) shall be modified to read as follows:

The Committee on Market Access shall meet as necessary, but not less than once a year.

- (ii) The following footnote shall be added to Rules 2, 3 and 4:

It is understood that it is desirable that a notice convening a meeting, the list of items proposed for the agenda of that meeting and the documentation for consideration at that meeting be issued at least three weeks in advance of the meeting.

- (iii) Rule 4 of Chapter II (Agenda) shall be modified to read as follows:

Requests for items to be placed on the agenda of a forthcoming meeting shall be communicated to the Secretariat in writing, together with the accompanying documentation to be issued in connection with that item. Documentation for consideration at a meeting shall be circulated not later than ten calendar days prior to the date set for the meeting.

- (iv) Rule 5 of Chapter II (Agenda) is not applicable.

- (v) Rules 12, 13 and 14 of Chapter V (Officers) shall be modified to read as follows:

Rule 12

The Committee on Market Access shall elect a Chairperson* and may elect a Vice-Chairperson from among the representatives of Members. The election shall take place at the first meeting of the year and shall take effect at the end of the meeting. The Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson shall hold office until the end of the first meeting of the following year.

Rule 13

If the Chairperson is absent from any meeting or part thereof, the Vice-Chairperson shall perform the functions of the Chairperson. If no Vice-Chairperson was elected or if the Vice-Chairperson is

*The Committee on Market Access shall apply the relevant guidelines contained in the "Guidelines for Appointment of Officers to WTO Bodies" (WT/L/31 dated 7 February 1995).

not present, the Committee on Market Access shall elect an interim Chairperson for that meeting or that part of the meeting.

Rule 14

If the Chairperson can no longer perform the functions of the office, the Committee on Market Access shall designate the Vice-Chairperson referred to in Rule 12 or, if no Vice-Chairperson was elected, it shall elect an interim Chairperson to perform those functions pending the election of a new Chairperson.

(vi) Rule 16 of Chapter VI (Conduct of Business) is not applicable.

(vii) Rule 33 of Chapter VII (Decision-Making) shall be modified to read as follows:

Where a decision cannot be arrived at by consensus, the matter at issue shall be referred to the Council for Trade in Goods.

(viii) Rule 34 of Chapter VII (Decision-Making) is not applicable.