

WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

G/L/208

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Agreement on Preshipment Inspection Independent Entity

REPORT (1997) OF THE INDEPENDENT ENTITY TO THE COUNCIL FOR TRADE IN GOODS

The Agreement on Preshipment Inspection provides for the establishment of an Independent Entity for the administration of the independent review procedures as set out in Article 4 of the Agreement. The Independent Entity (IE) was established by Decision of the General Council of 13 December 1995 (WT/L/125/Rev.1). Paragraph I.C of the Structures and Functions of the Independent Entity (Annex II of WT/L/125/Rev.1) provides that,

"the IE will report to the Council for Trade in Goods at least once a year but more frequently if necessary."

The report below is presented in accordance with the above requirement.

1. Following the Decision of the General Council, the administrative and procedural requirements necessary to commence operations of the IE were put in place in April 1996. WTO Members were notified that as of 1 May 1996, the IE was prepared to receive applications requesting independent reviews (G/PSI/IE/2). According to paragraph 2 of the Agreement between the WTO, the ICC and the IFIA, the ICC and IFIA shall jointly "draw up, and update annually, their respective lists of experts as provided for in paragraph (b)(i) and (ii) of Article 4 of the PSI Agreement, and assist the IE in drawing up and updating the list of independent trade experts as provided for in paragraph b(iii) of that Article; ...".

2. During the reporting period, the List of Experts was updated and circulated as document G/PSI/IE/1/Rev.1. During this period, the IE received no requests for an independent review.