

WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

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Council for Trade in Goods
30 November 1998

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EC/FRANCE - TRADING ARRANGEMENTS WITH MOROCCO

Request for an Extension of the Waiver

The following communication, dated 16 November 1998, has been received from the European Communities.

On 10 December 1997¹, the General Council decided to extend until the entry into force of the Euro-Mediterranean Agreement establishing an association between the European Communities and their Member States, of the one part, and the Kingdom of Morocco, of the other part, or until 31 December 1998, whichever the earlier, the waiver granted for France's preferential trading arrangements with Morocco by Decision of the CONTRACTING PARTIES of 10 November 1960². The waiver applies to the provisions of paragraph 1 of Article I of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), to the extent necessary to permit France to apply duty-free tariff quotas to a number of products originating in parts of the territory of the Kingdom of Morocco not covered by the provisions of paragraphs 2 and 4 of Article I of the GATT.

This extension was without prejudice to the right of the European Communities to request a further extension of the waiver, should this prove necessary.

At this point in time, there remain two Member States of the European Communities that have not yet ratified the Euro-Mediterranean Agreement with Morocco. It now seems likely that this Agreement will enter into force in the course of the year 1999.

For this reason, the European Communities request an extension of the waiver until the entry into force of the Euro-Mediterranean Agreement establishing an association between the European Communities and their Member States, of the one part, and the Kingdom of Morocco, of the other part, or until 31 December 1999, whichever is the earlier.

Since the previous extension, there have been no changes in the measures for which the extension of the waiver is requested, in the specific policy objectives pursued, or in the continued existence of the exceptional circumstances justifying the waiver. The terms and conditions attached to the extended waiver have been complied with.

The European Communities wish to assure the other WTO Members that they will, upon request, promptly enter into consultations with any interested WTO Member with respect to any difficulty or matter that may arise as a result of the extension of the waiver.

¹ Document WT/L/250 of 16 December 1997.

² BISD 9S/39.

This request is without prejudice to the right of the European Communities to request a further extension of the waiver before the end of 1999, should this prove necessary.
