

Council for Trade in Goods
6 October 1997

Original: Spanish

GUATEMALA - ESTABLISHMENT OF A NEW SCHEDULE LXXXVIII

Request for Extension of Waiver

The following communication, dated 19 September 1997, has been received from the Permanent Mission of Guatemala.

I have the honour to refer to the procedure for the transposition into the Harmonized System of Guatemala's Schedule of Concessions (Schedule LXXXVIII-Guatemala), established in the NAUCA II Nomenclature, which was based on the Central American Uniform Tariff Nomenclature.

Guatemala's new Customs Tariff based on the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System entered into force on 1 March 1993, and replaces the Central American Uniform Tariff Nomenclature.

In order to implement the procedures established by the Council Decision of 12 July 1983 for the rectification and renegotiation of the schedules of concessions negotiated in GATT, in the context of the Harmonized System, and to hold consultations under Article XXVIII, the Government of Guatemala requests a temporary waiver of its obligations under Article II of the General Agreement until 30 April 1998.

To this end, I have provided below the factual information requested by you on the situation as regards previous waivers:

1. The original waiver was granted to Guatemala on 26 January 1994.
2. The documents relating to the application of the Harmonized System were submitted on 8 December 1995.
3. Extensions were granted on the following dates: 9 December 1994, 31 August 1995, 13 December 1995 and 18 July 1996.
4. Article XXVIII negotiations have been entered into with Australia, Canada and the European Communities.
5. Article XXVIII negotiations have been completed with Canada and Australia.

6. Article XXVIII negotiations with the European Communities are expected to be completed shortly. They concern a technical problem relating to the initial negotiating rights of Sweden.

The time-lag since the most recent extension, which expired on 30 April 1997, is due to the internal administrative restructuring that is taking place in the Mission in connection with the future organization of its relations with the WTO. We are in the process of separating certain functions in the Permanent Mission, and as I recently informed the WTO Director-General, Mr. Renato Ruggiero, as from 1 October 1997 I shall be responsible exclusively for WTO affairs.