

WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

G/L/611
14 March 2003

(03-1483)

Original: English

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

Thailand – Schedule LXXIX

Request for a Waiver

The following communication, dated 11 March 2002, has been received from the Permanent Mission of Thailand.

Reference is made to your fax dated 13 February 2003 concerning factual information on the status of the HS96 waiver to be provided by Thailand by 5 March 2003.

In this connection, the status of Thailand's waiver is as follows: WT/L/124; 173, 216, 243, 268, 281, 303, 338, 351, 379, 400, 463 and 490. The current waiver has been granted to Thailand by the General Council's decision on 15 October 2002, which extended the waiver until 30 April 2003.

With respect to the date of submission of documents relevant to the HS implementation, Thailand has submitted the document G/SECRET/HS96/17 dated 14 March 1996, G/SECRET/HS96/17/Rev.1 dated 18 October 1996 and G/SECRET/HS96/17/Rev.2 dated 27 November 2001 respectively.

In this regard, reservations by Canada (dated 12.06.1996), Australia (dated 14.01.1997), US (dated 12.07.1996 and 06.01.1998), and EC (dated 11.06.1996, 13.03.1998, and 29.04.1998) were initiated. All questions and concerns had been promptly responded by Thailand and that led to the removal of reservations by all Members. Nevertheless, the reservations by EC and Australia have been re-initiated on 25 February 2002.

Thailand is now considering the questions from the EC and Australia and will be able to provide the answers to concerned Members before the expiry date of current waiver.