

WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

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Council for Trade in Goods

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ARTICLE XXIV:6 NEGOTIATIONS

Enlargement of the European Union

Communication from the European Communities

This communication, dated 8 May 2007, is being circulated at the request of the Delegation of the European Communities.

In connection with the enlargement of the European Communities on 1 January 2007, and in view of ensuring that Members reserve their rights pending the communication to the WTO Secretariat of the agreements reached in the context of Article XXIV:6 (GATT), the EC believes that it is desirable to provide for an extension of 6 months.

As a consequence, and in continuation of the EC's notification of 28 September 2006 concerning the accession to the European Union of the Republic of Bulgaria and Romania on 1 January 2007, the European Communities wishes hereby to inform that the EC will not assert that WTO Members who have submitted a claim pursuant to Article XXIV:6 of GATT 1994 are precluded from withdrawing substantially equivalent concessions under Article XXVIII:3 of GATT 1994 because this withdrawal occurs later than six months after the EC's withdrawal of concessions, provided that the claiming WTO Member withdraws concessions no later than 12 months after the EC's modification of concessions.

We should be grateful if you would circulate this communication to Members and put this item on the agenda of the next Council for Trade in Goods.
