

WORLD TRADE

ORGANIZATION

G/L/350
6 March 2000

(00-0829)

Council for Trade in Goods
5 April 2000

Original: English

SRI LANKA – ESTABLISHMENT OF A NEW SCHEDULE VI

Request for Extension of Time-Limit

The following communication, dated 23 February 2000, has been received from the Permanent Mission of Sri Lanka.

I refer to the fax of 16 February 2000, on the above subject.

I have been instructed by my authorities in Sri Lanka to furnish the following information with regard to Sri Lanka's request for extension of time-limit for the current waiver, which expires on 30 April 2000.

1. Date of original waiver: 8 November 1988.
2. Date of submission of document relevant to the HS implementation: 12 January 1990.
3. Number of extensions and dates when granted: twenty extensions, as follows: 24/07/89; 16/07/90; 07/12/90; 01/07/91; 04/12/91; 20/07/92; 03/12/92; 19/07/93; 17/01/94; 21/07/94; 09/12/94; 31/08/95; 13/12/95; 18/07/96; 16/07/97; 22/10/97; 30/04/98; 14/10/98; 15.06.99 (granted with retroactive effect 30.04.99), and 04/11/99.
4. Number of countries with which Article XXVIII negotiations have been initiated: Five (Australia, European Union, New Zealand, South Africa and the United States).
5. Number of countries with which Article XXVIII negotiations have been concluded: Two.
6. Status of outstanding Article XXVIII negotiations as well as a general outline of relevant problems, if any:

Sri Lanka continues to make every effort to conclude negotiations under Article XXVIII. Following its most recent initiatives with two countries, Sri Lanka concluded negotiations with New Zealand and, clarification and finalization of documents now remains to be formally completed, with Australia.

7. Outlook for concluding the process:

Sri Lanka has sought clarification on the status of reservation made by the remaining two countries in respect of Sri Lanka's Schedule and formal communications from these two countries are awaited. Hence, to conclude these negotiations, if any, and to conclude formalities

with all concerned trading partners, Sri Lanka may require at least one more extension of time. The Government of Sri Lanka, therefore, will be deeply appreciative of a further extension of six months to conclude the outstanding negotiations. The Government of Sri Lanka assures its trading partners in these negotiations that every effort will be made to conclude the negotiations satisfactorily and in the mutual interest of all concerned as soon as possible.
