

Council for Trade in Goods
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EC/FRANCE - TRADING ARRANGEMENTS WITH MOROCCO

Request for an Extension of the Waiver

The following communication, dated 16 March 2000, has been received from the European Communities.

On of 9 - 11 and 18 December 1998¹, 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 1999, 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.

The Euro-Mediterranean Agreement with Morocco has been ratified by all EU Member States and entered into force on 1 March 2000.

For this reason, the European Communities request an extension of the waiver until 1 March 2000, date of 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.

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/294 of 1 February 1999.

² BISD 9S/39.