

WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

G/L/514
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Original: Spanish

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

EL SALVADOR – SCHEDULE LXXXVII

Request for Waiver

The following communication, dated 19 February 2002, has been received from the Permanent Mission of El Salvador.

The Permanent Mission of El Salvador to the World Trade Organization has the honour to inform you that its Government has decided to request a waiver, for a period of six months, of Article II of the GATT 1994 concerning the schedules of concessions.

The purpose of this request is to complete the consultations that are still under way and which El Salvador hopes to be able to conclude shortly, as it is negotiating with only one country.

The request is being made pursuant to Article IX:3 of the WTO Agreement in connection with the introduction of Harmonized System changes into the schedules of tariff concessions.

Attached hereto, as requested by the Secretariat, is the factual information mentioned in your fax of 5 February as well as the relevant draft decision agreed at the meeting of the Committee on Market Access of 18 February 2002.

Date of original waiver: Decision of 18 July 1996 (WT/L/173)

Date of submission of documents relevant to the HS implementation:

1 May 2000 (G/SECRET/HS96/44) and 12 February 2002 (G/SECRET/HS96/44/Corr.1)

Number of extensions and dates when granted

Decision of 24 April 1997 (WT/L/216)
Decision of 22 October 1997 (WT/L/243)
Decision of 24 April 1998 (WT/L/268)
Decision of 14 October 1998 (WT/L/281)
Decision of 15 June 1999 (WT/L/303)
Decision of 4 November 1999 (WT/L/338)
Decision of 3 May 2000 (WT/L/351)
Decision of 8 December 2000 (WT/L/379)
Decision of 8 May 2001 (WT/L/400)

Number of countries with which Article XXVIII negotiations have been initiated

Three – Australia, Canada, United States

Number of countries with which Article XXVIII negotiations have been concluded

Two – Australia (25 June 2001) and Canada (18 February 2002)

Status of outstanding Article XXVIII negotiations as well as a general outline of relevant problems

El Salvador currently owes the United States a reply with respect to certain tariff headings that were restructured as part of the transposition process.

Outlook for concluding the process

The consultations should be completed before end date of the extension mentioned in this request.
