

# WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

## Committee on Import Licensing

### REPORT (1995) OF THE COMMITTEE ON IMPORT LICENSING

1. This Report is submitted pursuant to Article 7.4 of the WTO Agreement on Import Licensing Procedures.

2. The Committee elected Mr. Calson Mbegabolawe (Zimbabwe) as Chairman and Mr. Jan Michalek (Poland) as Vice-Chairman for 1995.

3. During the period under consideration, the Committee held two meetings, on 3 May and 12 October 1995 (G/LIC/M/1-2).

4. Participation in the Committee is open to all WTO Members. Certain non-WTO Members participated in the work of the Committee in accordance with the Decision of the General Council of 31 January 1995 on Participation in Meetings of WTO Bodies by Certain Signatories of the Final Act Eligible to become Original Members of the WTO (WT/L/27). In addition, the Committee agreed that governments granted observer status by the WTO General Council would be allowed to attend meetings of the Committee as observers, without prejudice to the possibility of holding closed sessions without the presence of observers.

5. Representatives of the IMF, UNCTAD and the World Bank attended the meetings of the Committee in an observer capacity, in accordance with interim arrangements agreed upon by the Council for Trade in Goods regarding the participation of international intergovernmental organizations in meetings of its subsidiary bodies (G/C/M/1, paragraph 13.4 and G/C/M/2, paragraph 2.3).

6. The Committee took note of notifications under footnote 5 to Article 2.2 of the Agreement by 20 developing-country Members which had invoked the provisions for delayed application of certain requirements linked to automatic import licensing for a period of two years from the date of entry into force of the WTO Agreement for the Members concerned (G/LIC/1 and Add.1).

7. At its meeting in October, the Committee:

- adopted its rules of procedure, subject to approval by the Council for Trade in Goods;
- adopted procedures for notification under the Agreement, including the language in which notifications under Articles 1.4(a) and 8.2(b) should be made; the content of the first notification of legislation under Article 8.2(b); and the time-limit for the submission of replies to the Questionnaire on Import Licensing Procedures under Article 7.3;
- agreed on revisions to the Questionnaire on Import Licensing Procedures (G/LIC/2);

- agreed on procedures for review under Article 7.1 of the Agreement;
- reviewed replies to the Import Licensing Questionnaire received from Cyprus (G/LIC/N/3/CYP/1) and took note of two notifications pursuant to Article 5 of the Agreement, by Malaysia (G/LIC/N/2/MYS/1) and Romania (G/LIC/N/2/ROM/1); and
- took note of a statement by the United States that they, together with Guatemala, Honduras and Mexico, had requested consultations on 28 September 1995 with the European Communities under, *inter alia*, the Agreement on Import Licensing Procedures, concerning the EC regime for the importation, sale and distribution of bananas.