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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 UNION

The following communication, dated 17 October 2013, is being circulated at the request of the delegation of the European Union.

In connection with the enlargement of the European Union on 1 July 2013, 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 European Union believes that it is desirable to provide for an extension of six months.

As a consequence, and in continuation of the European Union's notification of 27 March 2013 concerning the accession to the European Union of the Republic of Croatia on 1 July 2013, the European Union wishes hereby to inform that the European Union will not assert that WTO Members who have submitted a claim pursuant to Article XXIV:6 of the GATT 1994 are precluded from withdrawing substantially equivalent concessions under Article XXVIII:3 of the GATT 1994 because this withdrawal occurs later than six months after the European Union's withdrawal of concessions, provided that the claiming WTO Member withdraws concessions no later than 12 months after the European Union's modification of concessions.
