

WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

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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 Communities

The following communication, dated 28 September 2004, is being circulated at the request of the Delegation of the European Communities.

In continuation of the EC's notification of 19 January 2004 concerning the accession to the European Union of the Czech Republic, the Republic of Estonia, the Republic of Cyprus, the Republic of Latvia, the Republic of Lithuania, the Republic of Hungary, the Republic of Malta, the Republic of Poland, the Republic of Slovenia and the Slovak Republic on 1 May 2004, the Commission of the European Communities wishes hereby to inform that the EC will not assert that WTO members who have submitted a claim pursuant to Article XXIV:6 of GATT 1994 are precluded from withdrawing substantially equivalent concessions under Article XXVIII:3 of GATT 1994 because this withdrawal occurs later than six months after the EC's withdrawal of concessions, provided that the claiming WTO member withdraws concessions no later than twelve months after the EC's modification of concessions.