

# WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

G/L/196

24 October 1997

(97-4654)

**Council for Trade in Goods  
19 November 1997**

## FRANCE - TRADING ARRANGEMENTS WITH MOROCCO

### Request for an Extension of the Waiver

The following communication, dated 10 October 1997, has been received from the European Communities.

On 14 October 1996<sup>1</sup>, 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 1997, whichever the earlier, the waiver granted for France's preferential trading arrangements with Morocco by Decision of the CONTRACTING PARTIES of 10 November 1960<sup>2</sup>. 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.

The Decision of 14 October 1996 noted in its paragraph 1 that it was without prejudice to the right of the European Communities to request a further extension of the waiver, should this prove necessary.

At this point in time, only some member States of the European Communities have ratified the Euro-Mediterranean Agreement with Morocco and it seems unlikely that all member States will have ratified before 31 December 1997.

For this reason, the European Communities request an extension of the waiver 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 1998, whichever is the earlier.

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

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<sup>1</sup>WT/L/187 of 18 October 1996.

<sup>2</sup>BISD 9S/39.

the exceptional circumstances justifying the waiver<sup>3</sup>. 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.

This request is without prejudice to the right of the European Communities to request a further extension of the waiver before the end of 1998, should this prove necessary.

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<sup>3</sup>G/L/109 of 9 September 1996.