

WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

G/L/256
17 September 1998

(98-3536)

Council for Trade in Goods
1 October 1998

Original: Spanish

NICARAGUA – ESTABLISHMENT OF A NEW SCHEDULE XXIX

Request for Extension of Waiver

The following communication, dated 11 August 1998, has been received from the Permanent Mission of Nicaragua.

I refer to your communication of 26 August 1998 requesting factual information on the extension of the waiver concerning Schedule XXIX.

The facts are as follows:

- The original waiver was granted on 26 January 1994, and was extended in December 1994, December 1995, July 1996, April 1997, October 1997 and April 1998.
 - In January 1997, the Government of Nicaragua adopted the Second Amendment to the Harmonized System of 1996, thereby modifying the Central American Tariff System, which entered into force on 1 March 1997. However, for reasons of coordination with the other countries of the region, Nicaragua has not officially submitted the adoption of the Harmonized System to the WTO.
 - The relevant documentation was submitted on 28 June 1995. On the expiry of the time-limit of three months, two countries had reserved their right to conduct negotiations.
 - As of today, one of these countries has still not submitted any request to initiate negotiations.
 - The other country sent us a communication in March 1997, and negotiations have begun with a view to achieving a successful outcome to the process.
 - We have submitted all the documentation and demonstrated our wish to complete the process as soon as possible; nevertheless, given the above-mentioned circumstances, we find ourselves obliged to request a further extension of the original waiver.
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