

WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

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Council for Trade in Goods
25 March 1999

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SRI LANKA – ESTABLISHMENT OF A NEW SCHEDULE VI

Request for Extension of Time-Limit

The following communication, dated 2 March 1999, has been received from the Permanent Mission of Sri Lanka.

I refer to your fax of 10 February 1999 on the above subject. I have been instructed by my authorities to furnish the following information with regard to Sri Lanka's request for extension of time limit for the current waiver which expires on 30 April 1999.

1. Date of original waiver: 8 November 1988¹.
2. Date of submission of documents relevant to the HS implementation: 12 January 1990².
3. Number of extensions and dates when granted: eighteen extensions, as follows: 24/07/89; 16/07/90; 07/12/90; 01/07/91; 04/12/91; 20/07/92; 03/12/92; 19/07/93; 17/01/94; 21/07/94; 09/12/94; 31/08/95; 13/12/95; 18/07/96; 16/07/97; 22/10/97; 30/04/98 and 14/10/98.
4. Number of countries with which Article XXVIII negotiations have been initiated: five (Australia, European Union, New Zealand, South Africa and United States).
5. Number of countries with which Article XXVIII negotiations have been concluded: one.
6. Status of outstanding Article XXVIII negotiations as well as a general outline of relevant problems, if any:

Sri Lanka continues to make every effort to conclude negotiations under Article XXVIII. Sri Lanka has made substantively improved and qualitatively higher offers to two countries few weeks back in the interest of reaching finality in negotiations. It is fervently hoped that negotiations can be concluded with these two trading partners as soon as possible.

¹ BISD, 35S/22

² SECRET/HS/26

7. Outlook for concluding the process:

The Government of Sri Lanka will be deeply appreciative of a further extension of six months to conclude outstanding negotiations. The Government of Sri Lanka assures its trading partners in these negotiations that every effort will be made to conclude the negotiations satisfactorily and in the mutual interest of all concerned, as soon as possible.
