

WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

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INTRODUCTION OF HARMONIZED SYSTEM 1996 CHANGES INTO WTO SCHEDULES OF TARIFF CONCESSIONS

SWITZERLAND – SCHEDULE LIX

Request for a Waiver

The following communication, dated 13 February 2002, has been received from the Permanent Mission of Switzerland.

Switzerland considers it necessary to seek a further extension of the waiver granted in the Decision of 8 May 2001 (WT/L/400).

This request is made on the ground that the consultations with one WTO Member regarding the remaining objection with respect to the proposed modification to Schedule LIX (Switzerland/Liechtenstein) to implement HS96 could not be completed yet.

Should the objection be lifted before 30 April 2002, the present request would be considered to be withdrawn.

ANNEX

Factual Information on waivers granted in connection with the establishment or renegotiation of tariff schedules

1. Date of original waiver

13.12.1995

2. Date of submission of documents relevant to the HS implementation (if no documents have been circulated, reasons therefor)

16.01.1996 (G/SECRET/HS96/10)

3. Number of extensions and dates when granted

As of February 2002, 11 extensions have been granted to Switzerland

WT/L/124:	13.12.1995
WT/L/173:	18.07.1996
WT/L/216:	24.04.1997
WT/L/243:	22.10.1997
WT/L/268:	24.04.1998
WT/L/281:	14.10.1998
WT/L/303:	15.06.1999
WT/L/338:	04.11.1999
WT/L/351:	03.05.2000
WT/L/379:	08.12.2000
WT/L/400:	08.05.2001

4. Number of countries with which Article XXVIII negotiations have been initiated

Four countries.

5. Number of countries with which Article XXVIII negotiations have been concluded

Three countries

6. Status of outstanding Article XXVIII negotiations as well a general outline of relevant problems, if any

Switzerland will meet on the 28th February 2002 at the experts level with the sole WTO member left with a reservation on the Swiss Schedule LIX and hopes to make substantial progress to solve quickly the issue.

7. Outlook for concluding the process

Depends on the outcome of the experts meeting.
