

TURKEY – MEASURES AFFECTING THE IMPORTATION OF RICE

Extension of the Time-Period under Article 21.3(c) of the DSU

The following communication, dated 21 January 2008, from the delegation of Turkey and the delegation of the United States to the Chairman of the Dispute Settlement Body, is circulated at the request of those delegations.

At its meeting on 22 October 2007, the Dispute Settlement Body (DSB) adopted the report of the Panel in the dispute *Turkey – Measures Affecting the Importation of Rice* (WT/DS334). Turkey informed the DSB in a communication dated 20 November 2007 that it was in the process of implementing the recommendations and rulings of the DSB in this dispute and that it was engaged in consultations with the United States to explore additional steps that might be taken in scope of the recommendation for mutually satisfactory outcomes. At the meeting of the DSB on 27 November 2007, Turkey reiterated that it was engaged in consultations with the United States and stated that it preserved its rights to a reasonable period of time for implementation at the end of the discussions with the United States.

Article 21.3(c) of the *Understanding on Rules and Procedures Governing the Settlement of Disputes* (DSU) provides that, in the absence of an agreement between the parties on a period of time, the reasonable period of time shall be determined "through binding arbitration within 90 days after the date of adoption of the recommendations and rulings." As much of this 90-day period has elapsed, and in order to permit discussions between the parties on a mutually agreed period to continue, Turkey and the United States have agreed that any arbitration under Article 21.3(c) of the DSU shall be completed no later than 60 days after the date of the appointment of an arbitrator. Turkey and the United States confirm that the award of the arbitrator, made within the agreed 60-day period, shall be deemed to be the award of the arbitrator for the purposes of Article 21.3(c) of the DSU in determining the reasonable period of time for Turkey to implement the recommendations and rulings of the DSB.

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