

WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

RESTRICTED

WT/ACC/MOL/30
30 June 2000

(00-2716)

**Working Party on the
Accession of Moldova**

Original: English

ACCESSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

Additional Questions and Replies

The Ministry of Economy and Reforms of the Republic of Moldova has submitted the following replies to additional questions raised by Members.

CONTENTS

	Question No.	Page No.
IV. POLICIES AFFECTING TRADE IN GOODS		
1. Import Regulation		
(d) Fees and charges for services rendered	1	1
2. Export Regulation		
(b) Customs tariffs, fees and charges and internal taxes applied to exports	2	1
3. Internal policies affecting foreign trade in goods		
(b) Technical barriers to trade	3	2
(c) Sanitary and phytosanitary measures	4	2
4. Policies affecting foreign trade in agricultural products		
(b) Agricultural export subsidies	5	2
VII. INSTITUTIONAL BASE FOR TRADE AND ECONOMIC RELATIONS WITH THIRD COUNTRIES		
1. Bilateral or plurilateral agreements relating to foreign trade in goods and services	6	3

IV. POLICIES AFFECTING TRADE IN GOODS

1. Import Regulation

(d) Fees and charges for services rendered

Question 1.

While the undertakings in paragraph 62 of WT/ACC/MOL/4/REV.2 are acceptable, we note in table 8 that some customs fees are expressed in ad valorem terms, together with a maximum charge expressed in Euro (e.g., items 1, 14 and 15). We question whether these ad valorem charges are consistent with the GATT Article VIII requirement that fees and charges be commensurate with the cost of providing the service.

Answer

The Republic of Moldova would like to mention that Budget Law 2000, which came into force on 1 May 2000, removed the 0.25 per cent customs user fee and introduced a flat fee, but some customs fees are expressed in *ad valorem* terms, together with a maximum charge expressed in Euro. Also, we want to confirm that these customs fees are consistent with the Article VIII of GATT 1994 and reflect the approximate costs of the services rendered.

2. Export Regulation

(b) Customs tariffs, fees and charges and internal taxes applied to exports

Question 2.

There are inconsistencies and duplication between paragraph 103 and paragraph 105.

In paragraph 103 Moldova states that “there were no export licensing requirements “, but paragraph 105 states that export licenses were required for “goods with a special character”.

We request that these paragraphs be amended to reflect the actual position and to eliminate inconsistencies.

Answer:

The representative of Moldova wants to confirm that there were no export licensing requirements, except for “goods with a special character” and that the registration of exports contracts had been abolished. He informs members of the Working Party that "goods with a special character" included weapons, ammunition, military equipment, kits to produce such equipment; explosives; nuclear materials, technologies, equipment and installations to produce such materials; ionic radiation sources; drugs, psychotropic effect substances and preparations, materials to produce such substances and preparations, poisons; lottery-type inventions, means and equipment for different types of lottery; slot machines, fortune games; chemical substances (including fertilizers and plant-protection substances) and industrial waste subject to international control; medicines, medical appliances and equipment. The list also included precious metals: gold and silver. Consequently, the first sentence of paragraph 99 of WT/ACC/MOL/4/Rev.3 should be corrected to read “The representative of Moldova said that there were no export licensing requirements other than there noted in paragraph 101 below, and that the registration of export contracts had been abolished by Government Decision No. 777 of 1997.”

3. Internal policies affecting foreign trade in goods

(b) Technical barriers to trade

Question 3

We suggest the following commitment paragraph after paragraph 123:

“The representative of Moldova confirmed that Moldova would implement the WTO Agreement on Technical Barriers to trade from the date of accession without recourse to any transition period. The Working Party took note of this commitment.”

Answer:

Moldova accepts the formulation of the text suggested above and introduced a new commitment paragraph with following language:

“119. The representative of Moldova confirmed that Moldova would implement the WTO Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade from the date of accession in accordance with the Schedule contained in Table No. 14 and without recourse to any transition period.”

(c) Sanitary and phytosanitary measures

Question 4

As currently drafted, paragraph 129 applies to both SPS and TBT Agreements, although it is located in the section of the report that covers only SPS measures. We propose inclusion of a new commitment paragraph on the TBT Agreement (see above), and modification of the paragraph 133 so that it applies to SPS measures only.

Answer:

Moldova took into consideration the WTO Members proposals and has modified the paragraph 129 so that it applies to SPS measures only. (See also previous answer).

4. Policies affecting foreign trade in agricultural products

(b) Agricultural export subsidies

Question 5

In relation to paragraph 156, Moldova has offered a commitment to zero agricultural export subsidies. We propose that the following be added to paragraph 156: “Moldova did not grant any export subsidies to agricultural products. The representative of Moldova confirmed that Moldova would bind agricultural export subsidies at zero in its goods schedule. The Working Party took note of this commitment.”

Answer:

Moldova took into consideration the WTO Members requests and introduced the proposed language in the Working Party report under paragraph 149. The new language of paragraph is following:

“149. The representative of Moldova said that Moldova granted no export credits, export credit guarantees, export credit insurance or other financial support or assistance was available for agricultural exports. Moldova did not grant any export subsidies to agricultural products. The representative of Moldova confirmed that Moldova would bind agricultural export subsidies at zero in its Goods Schedule. The Working Party took note of this commitment.”

VII. INSTITUTIONAL BASE FOR TRADE AND ECONOMIC RELATIONS WITH THIRD COUNTRIES

1. Bilateral or plurilateral agreements relating to foreign trade in goods and services.

Question 6

In paragraph 225 some members of the Working Party requested information on the scope of the duty free treatment accorded in economic integration agreements; and any special provisions concerning trade in services, investment or movement of persons. Also requested was a schedule describing the state of all preferential agreements presently held by Moldova and a description of their compatibility with the relevant provisions of the WTO Agreement.

In the last sentence Moldova stated that “the requested detailed information requested was under preparation”. We would welcome advice from Moldova on whether the requested information is now available.

Answer:

The response to this question was provided in the reply to Question 44 of document WT/ACC/MOL/25.
