

SRI LANKA – ESTABLISHMENT OF A NEW SCHEDULE VI

Request for Extension of Time-Limit

The following communication, dated 29 August 2002, has been received from the Permanent Mission of Sri Lanka.

I refer to your fax of 20 August 2002, on the above subject.

I have been instructed by my authorities in Sri Lanka, 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 2002.

1. Date of original waiver: 8 November 1988
2. Date of submission of document relevant to the HS implementation: 12 January 1990
3. Number of extensions and dates when granted – 25 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; 14.10.98,
15.06.99 (granted with retroactive effect 30.04.99) 04.11.99, 03.05.2000, 08.12.2000;
08.05.2001, 31.10.2001, and 13.05.2002.
4. Number of countries with which Article XXVIII negotiations have been initiated: 5
(Australia, European Union, New Zealand, South Africa and the United States).

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

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. The negotiations with the United States are still continuing.

7. Outlook for concluding the process:

Sri Lanka has had bilateral negotiations with the US in respect of Sri Lanka's schedule. These negotiations are still continuing. In view of the fact that submissions are being made to the newly appointed Advisory Committee on Tariffs of the Government of Sri Lanka and that its approval is required for tariff binding to be made, Sri Lanka may require one more extension of time to conclude these negotiations. The Government of Sri Lanka, therefore, will appreciate granting of a further extension of six months. The Government of Sri Lanka also wishes to assure its trading partners that every effort will be made to conclude the negotiations satisfactorily, and in the mutual interest of all concerned, as soon as possible.