

Committee on Import Licensing

DRAFT

REPORT (1998) OF THE COMMITTEE ON IMPORT LICENSING

1. The Agreement on Import Licensing Procedures (the Agreement) establishes disciplines on users of import licensing systems with the principal objective of ensuring that the procedures applied for granting import licences do not in themselves restrict trade. It aims to simplify, clarify and minimize the administrative requirements necessary to obtain import licences.
2. The Committee on Import Licensing (the Committee) was established to afford Members the opportunity of consulting on any matters relating to the operation of the Agreement or the furtherance of its objectives.
3. All Members of the WTO are *ipso facto* members of the Committee. Observer governments in the General Council of the WTO have observer status in the Committee. In addition, representatives of the IMF, UNCTAD and the World Bank attend meetings of the Committee in an observer capacity.
4. The Committee held two meetings on 24 April and 20 October 1998 (G/LIC/M/7 and 8). The Committee at its meeting in April 1998 elected Mrs. Marie Gosset (Côte d'Ivoire) as Chairperson and Mr. Marshall Couper (New Zealand) as Vice-Chairperson for 1998. Pursuant to the Committee's Rules of Procedure, they took office at the end of that meeting.
5. Pursuant to Articles 1.4(a) and/or 8.2(b) of the Agreement, all Members are required to notify their laws, regulations and administrative procedures relevant to import licensing. During the period covered by this report, the Committee received notifications from the following 14 Members: Brazil; Chad; European Communities; Hong Kong, China; Hungary; St.Kitts & Nevis; Korea; Madagascar; Mauritius; Nigeria; Panama; Philippines; Qatar and Turkey. Since the entry into force of the WTO Agreement, 54 Members (the European Communities and its member States counted as one) have notified their legislation and/or publications under these provisions. These notifications may be found in document series G/LIC/N/1/-.
6. Article 7.3 of the Agreement requires all Members to provide replies to the Questionnaire on Import Licensing Procedures¹ by 30 September each year. Since the entry into force of the WTO Agreement, 52 Members (the European Communities and its member States counted as one) have made notifications under this provision. This includes replies to the Questionnaire from 11 Members in 1995, 22 Members in 1996, 25 Members in 1997 and 16 Members in 1998. During the period covered by this report, the Committee received notifications from Bolivia; Brazil; Costa Rica; Cyprus; Haiti; Hungary; Iceland; Jamaica; Japan; Korea; Malta; New Zealand; Nigeria; Philippines; Qatar and Turkey. These notifications may be found in document series G/LIC/N/3/-.

¹ Annexed to document G/LIC/3.

7. The Committee also received pursuant to Article 5 of the Agreement notifications relating to the institution of new import licensing procedures or changes in these procedures from Brazil; Hong Kong, China; Hungary; India; Japan; Nigeria; Panama and Papua New Guinea. These notifications may be found in document series G/LIC/N/2/-.

8. The Committee conducted its second biennial review of the implementation and operation of the Agreement under Article 7.1 on the basis of a factual report prepared by the Secretariat (G/LIC/W/10 and G/LIC/M/8).

9. The Committee has provided a regular forum for the discussion of specific notifications submitted by Members and of concerns regarding notifications. It should be noted that the mandatory notification requirements under Articles 1.4(a), 8.2(b) and 7.3 are complied with only by about half of WTO Members. The Annex reflects the current status of notifications.

ANNEX

- (i) Notifications of legislation and/or publications (Articles 1.4(a) and/or 8.2(b)) received from :
(54 Members) (G/LIC/N/1/- series)

| | | |
|--------------|-------------------|----------------------|
| Argentina | Honduras | Norway |
| Australia | Hong Kong, China | Pakistan |
| Bahrain | Hungary | Panama |
| Barbados | India | Peru |
| Benin | Jamaica | Philippines |
| Bolivia | Japan | Qatar |
| Brazil | Kenya | Romania |
| Bulgaria | St. Kitts & Nevis | Singapore |
| Burkina Faso | Korea | Slovenia |
| Canada | Liechtenstein | Swaziland |
| Chad | Madagascar | Switzerland |
| Chile | Malta | Tunisia |
| Colombia | Mauritius | Turkey |
| Costa Rica | Morocco | Uganda |
| Cuba | New Zealand | United Arab Emirates |
| Cyprus | Nicaragua | United States |
| EC | Niger | Uruguay |
| Fiji | Nigeria | Zimbabwe |

- (ii) Replies to the Questionnaire on Import Licensing Procedures (Article 7.3) received from :
(52 Members) (G/LIC/N/3/- series) The date of latest communication is indicated within brackets.

| | | |
|----------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Argentina (19.12.97) | Hong Kong, China (25.9.97) | Peru (27.8.96) |
| Australia (28.4.97) | Hungary (19.1.98) | Philippines (6.4.98) |
| Barbados (15.9.95) | Iceland (1.9.98) | Poland (7.10.97) |
| Bolivia (24.8.98) | India (29.11.95) | Qatar (24.3.98) |
| Brazil (24.4.98) | Jamaica (29.5.98) | Romania (4.9.96) |
| Brunei Dar. (4.3.97) | Japan (2.4.98) | Senegal (20.1.97) |
| Bulgaria (20.3.97) | Kenya (10.11.97) | Singapore (17.11.97) |
| Burkina Faso(8.1.97) | Korea (6.4.98) | Slovenia (6.6.97) |
| Canada (2.10.97) | Liechtenstein (18.4.97) | South Africa (13.5.97) |
| Chile (9.9.97) | Malaysia (4.12.97) | Switzerland (14.4.97) |
| Colombia (29.11.96) | Mali (9.5.97) | Trinidad & Tobago (17.1.96) |
| Costa Rica (7.5.98) | Malta (17.7.98) | Tunisia (31.10.96) |
| Cyprus (28.8.98) | Mauritius (2.11.95) | Turkey (8.5.98) |
| Ecuador (1.8.95) | Morocco (22.12.97) | Uganda (17.6.97) |
| EC (29.7.97) | Namibia (28.2.97) | United States (29.9.95) |
| Fiji (1.4.97) | New Zealand (24.3.98) | Uruguay (4.9.96) |
| Gambia (31.10.97) | Nigeria (16.2.98) | |
| Haiti (27.2.98) | Norway (3.11.97) | |

- (iii) Notifications of institution of import licensing procedures or changes therein (Article 5) received from: (16 Members) (G/LIC/N/2/- series)

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|------------------|------------------|
| Argentina | Malaysia |
| Brazil | Nigeria |
| EC | Pakistan |
| Hong Kong, China | Panama |
| Hungary | Papua New Guinea |
| India | Romania |
| Japan | South Africa |
| Liechtenstein | Switzerland |

- (iv) Developing countries which have invoked the two-year delayed application provisions (footnote 5 to Article 2.2): (24 Members) (G/LIC/1 and Add.1-3)

| | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------------|
| Bangladesh (as from 1.1.95) | El Salvador (7.5.95) | Thailand (1.1.95) |
| Bolivia (13.9.95) | Gabon (1.1.95) | Tunisia (29.3.95) |
| Brazil (1.1.95) | Guatemala (21.7.95) | Turkey (26.3.95) |
| Burkina Faso (3.6.95) | Honduras (1.1.95) | United Arab Emirates (10.4.96) |
| Cameroon (13.12.95) | Indonesia (1.1.95) | Uruguay (1.1.95) |
| Colombia (30.4.95) | Kenya (1.1.95) | Venezuela (1.1.95) |
| Costa Rica (1.1.95) | Malaysia (1.1.95) | |
| Côte d'Ivoire (1.1.95) | Myanmar (1.1.95) | |
| Dominican Republic (9.3.95) | Sri Lanka (1.1.95) | |