

Committee on Import Licensing

**SIMPLIFICATION OF DATA REQUIREMENTS AND
STANDARDIZATION OF FORMATS**

Note by the Secretariat

The following letter, dated 18 March 1996, addressed by the Chairman of the Working Group on Notification Obligations and Procedures to the Chairman of the Committee on Import Licensing, is circulated to Members for information, with a view to discussing the matters raised in this letter at the next meeting of the Committee.

"One of the items under discussion in the Working Group on Notification Obligations and Procedures established pursuant to the Marrakesh Decision on Notification Procedures, is the question of the scope for simplification of data requirements and the standardization of formats. This item will be the subject of further discussion in the Working Group; however, to obtain the benefit of the widest possible examination of this detailed and technical question, it has been suggested that it might also be usefully discussed in the concerned committees, where there might be a greater concentration of specialized knowledge on these matters.

Specifically in the context of this overall question, you may wish to give consideration, in relation to the Agreement under your purview, to (a) the identification of any formats/questionnaires currently in use which seek information going beyond the specific requirements of the relevant agreement and (b) suggestions as to any additional areas where formats/questionnaires could be developed.

It was agreed at our February meeting that, after consulting with the Chairman of the Council for Trade in Goods, I would communicate this suggestion to you for whatever action you might consider appropriate. We would welcome the views of your committee on these subjects and information on any actions which Members might consider appropriate to respond to these suggestions."