

NON-AUTOMATIC LICENCES FOR THE IMPORTATION OF EGGS¹

Response by Guatemala to Questions Posed by Mexico²

The following communication, dated 13 June 2006, is being circulated at the request of the delegation of Guatemala.

As the Members of this Committee are aware, the Committee's agenda of 26 July 2005 contained questions posed by Mexico to Guatemala concerning imports of eggs. Following a number of technical consultations between the two countries, *inter alia*, between capital-based experts, we are able to give the following replies:

1. Questions posed by Mexico to Guatemala/Meeting of the Committee on Import Licensing, 26 July 2005:

The representative of Mexico informed the Committee that his delegation had posed the following questions to Guatemala concerning its non-automatic licences for the importation of eggs, which are unrelated to sanitary and phytosanitary measures. His delegation requested that Guatemala explain the procedures and requirements necessary to acquire these non-automatic licences; under which internal provisions, laws, decrees or regulations Guatemala had based the application of this measure and to give the date of publication; and to give the date on which they had notified this measure to the Committee.

2. Guatemala's reply to Mexico/Meeting of the Committee on Import Licensing, 21 June 2006:

Bilateral meetings have taken place with Mexico within the Technical Experts Group on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures to address the trade agenda between the two countries. At these meetings, there has been extensive discussion of the point raised by the delegation of Mexico within the Committee.

Imports of eggs to Guatemala from Mexico are restricted not by import licence authorization, but by animal health control restrictions, particularly by requirements relating to avian influenza. The official Guatemalan document providing the legal basis for the above, Agreement No. 1029-99, is

¹ See G/LIC/4

² See G/LIC/M/21 and 22

annexed hereto. Guatemala's requirements for the importation of eggs are listed in Ministerial Agreement 1090-2001, which is also annexed to this communication.³

Guatemala hopes that Mexico will find these replies satisfactory and that it will be possible to clarify these issues even further, within the bilateral agenda of both countries.

³ The annexes mentioned are available to Members from the Market Access Division.