

WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

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Committee on Market Access

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TRADE IN PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS

The following communication on Trade in Pharmaceutical Products, dated 10 November 1998, has been received by the Commission of the European Communities on behalf of the WTO Members concerned.

As noted in the record of discussion on the treatment of pharmaceutical products which took place during the UR negotiations (L/7430 of 25 March 1994), the WTO Members concerned agreed to meet under the auspices of the Council for Trade in Goods of the WTO, normally at least once every three years, to review the product coverage with a view to including, by consensus, additional pharmaceutical products for tariff elimination. The outcome of the first review was notified to the Committee in G/MA/W/10 of 11 October 1996.

A series of meetings has taken place over the period April 1998 to October 1998 to conduct a second review which will result in (639) extra products receiving duty free treatment in addition to the products (over 6.500) already covered. It has been agreed that the duty free treatment for these extra products would be implemented by the beginning of July 1999, bearing in mind the need for each Member to fulfil its domestic procedural requirements. The Members concerned will notify to the Secretariat the appropriate changes to be made to their schedules according to the existing procedures.

Following this review, revised consolidated versions of Annex I-IV incorporating the additional products eligible for duty free treatment have been deposited with the WTO Secretariat.

These revised Annexes also include revised HS classification rulings issued by the World Customs Organization and technical corrections (e.g. misspellings of product descriptions).
