

Committee on Rules of Origin

**DRAFT RULES OF PROCEDURE FOR MEETINGS OF
THE COMMITTEE ON RULES OF ORIGIN**

Note by the Secretariat

1. At its meeting on 4 April 1995, the Committee on Rules of Origin requested the Secretariat to prepare draft rules of procedure for its meetings, based on the Rules of Procedure adopted by the Council for Trade in Goods on 3 April 1995 (G/C/W/2)¹.
2. The attached draft Rules of Procedure are proposed for adoption by the Committee on Rules of Origin. They shall subsequently be forwarded for approval to the Council for Trade in Goods, in accordance with paragraph 6 of Article IV of the WTO Agreement.
3. In the text below, footnotes 1-4 have been added for the information of delegations: they do not form an integral part of the Rules of Procedure. The footnote indicated by an asterisk (*) does, however, form an integral part of the Rules of Procedure.

The Rules of Procedure for meetings of the General Council shall apply mutatis mutandis for meetings of the Committee on Rules of Origin, except as provided below:

- (i) Rule 1 of Chapter I (Meetings) shall be modified to read as follows²:

The Committee on Rules of Origin shall meet as necessary, but not less than once a year.

- (ii) The following footnote shall be added to Rules 2 and 3:

It is understood that it is desirable that a notice convening a meeting, the list of items proposed for the agenda of that meeting and the supporting documents be issued at least three weeks in advance of the meeting.

- (iii) Rule 5 of Chapter II (Agenda) is deleted.

- (iv) Rules 12, 13 and 14 of Chapter V (Officers) shall be modified to read as follows³:

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¹The Rules of Procedure of the Council for Trade in Goods have not yet been adopted by the General Council, pending clarification of Rule 33 of Chapter VII (Decision-Making). This should not, however, have any implications for the Rules of Procedure of the Committee on Rules of Origin.

²In conformity with Article 4.1 of the Agreement on Rules of Origin.

³As adopted by the Council for Trade in Goods for its own Rules of Procedure (G/C/W/2).

Rule 12

The Committee on Rules of Origin shall elect a Chairperson* and may elect a Vice-Chairperson from among the representatives of Members. The election shall take place at the first meeting of the year and shall take effect at the end of the meeting. The Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson shall hold office until the end of the first meeting of the following year.

Rule 13

If the Chairperson is absent from any meeting or part thereof, the Vice-Chairperson shall perform the functions of the Chairperson. If no Vice-Chairperson was elected or if the Vice-Chairperson is not present, the Committee on Rules of Origin shall elect an interim Chairperson for that meeting or that part of the meeting.

Rule 14

If the Chairperson can no longer perform the functions of the office, the Committee on Rules of Origin shall designate the Vice-Chairperson referred to in Rule 12 or, if no Vice-Chairperson was elected, it shall elect an interim Chairperson to perform those functions pending the election of a new Chairperson.

(v) Rule 16 of Chapter VI (Conduct of Business) is deleted.

(vi) Rule 33 of Chapter VII (Decision-Making) shall be modified to read as follows:

Where a decision can not be arrived at by consensus, the matter at issue shall be referred to the Council for Trade in Goods.

(vii) Rule 34 of Chapter VII (Decision-Making) is deleted⁴.

*The Committee on Rules of Origin shall apply the relevant guidelines contained in the "Guidelines for Appointment of Officers to WTO Bodies" (PC/IPL/14 dated 29 December 1994).

⁴In conformity with the Rules of Procedure for the Council for Trade in Goods (G/C/W/2).