

Committee on Rules of Origin

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

Note by the Secretariat

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 and approved by the General Council on 31 July 1995 (WT/L/79). The following 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.

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 follows:

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, 3 and 4:

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 documentation for consideration at that meeting be issued at least three weeks in advance of the meeting.

- (iii) Rule 4 of Chapter II (Agenda) shall be modified to read as follows:

Requests for items to be placed on the agenda of a forthcoming meeting shall be communicated to the Secretariat in writing, together with the accompanying documentation to be issued in connection with that item. Documentation for consideration at a meeting shall be circulated not later than ten calendar days prior to the date set for the meeting.

- (iv) Rule 5 of Chapter II (Agenda) is not applicable.

./.

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

Rule 12

The Committee on Rules of Origin shall elect a Chairperson¹ 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 function 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.

- (vi) Rule 16 of Chapter VI (Conduct of Business) is not applicable.

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

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

- (viii) Rule 34 of Chapter VII (Decision-Making) is not applicable.

¹The Committee on Rules of Origin shall apply the relevant guidelines contained in the "Guidelines for Appointment of Officers to WTO Bodies" (WT/L/31 dated 7 February 1995).