

**COMMUNICATION FROM CUBA CONCERNING PARAGRAPH 1 OF  
ANNEX III TO THE AGREEMENT ON IMPLEMENTATION  
OF ARTICLE VII OF THE GENERAL AGREEMENT  
ON TARIFFS AND TRADE 1994**

Addendum

The following communication, dated 17 April 2000, has been received from the Permanent Mission of Cuba.

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Cuba has the honour to attach herewith a communication supplementing its initial request for an extension to implement the Agreement on Customs Valuation.

Pursuant to the provisions of paragraph 1 of Annex III to the Agreement on Implementation of Article VII of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade 1994 (Agreement on Customs Valuation), the Government of the Republic of Cuba requests the Members of the World Trade Organization's Committee on Customs Valuation to grant a further extension of one year so that Cuba will be in a position to implement the provisions of the Agreement fully.

We wish to indicate that, in Cuba's case, the time-limit for implementation of the Agreement on Customs Valuation expires on 20 April 2000, the date on which the five-year transitional period given to Cuba pursuant to paragraph 1 of Article 20 of the Agreement (Provision on Special and Differential Treatment for Developing Countries), comes to an end and it has not been sufficient to enable the necessary measures to be taken to ensure proper application of the Agreement.

This request is based on the major objective of reinforcing the application process in the customs system, and ensuring proper preparation of the personnel responsible for administering and applying the provisions and obligations under the Agreement, taking into account the experience shared and the recommendations made by the WTO experts who provided technical assistance in 1999.

Background to the request:

- Customs matters are dealt with in Cuban legislation through Resolution 6/97, issued by the Ministries of Foreign Trade and of Finance and Prices, which incorporates the various provisions laid down in the Agreement on Implementation of Article VII of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade 1994.
- At present, work is going on to complete the updating of domestic legislation on customs matters so that it will fully regulate the valuation procedures in conformity with the Agreement.

- During the technical visit by customs valuation experts organized by the WTO Secretariat in April 1999, it could be seen that the Republic of Cuba was making considerable efforts to improve the training and capacity of the personnel working in the customs service and the valuation methods they apply.
- It is recognized that the customs service of the Republic of Cuba does not have an adequate data bank of reference prices, which is an essential precondition for meeting the obligations arising from the Agreement.
- It is essential to pursue the work on modernizing the customs infrastructure so as to simplify the customs valuation procedures.

For the reasons set out above, the Republic of Cuba requests an extension for an additional period of one year to allow it to terminate the technical training programmes both for the customs personnel and the business sector, to complete the work being done on setting up a data bank of reference prices, and to prepare domestic legislation to facilitate compliance with the obligations arising from the Agreement.

The following is the programme of work to be carried out:

Activities to be undertaken	Date of completion
1. Comprehensive training programmes for customs inspectors working in branch offices of the customs service and the business sector concerning the provisions of the WTO Agreement	January 2001
2. Modernization of the customs infrastructure	January 2001
3. Creation of a data bank of reference prices	April 2001
4. Programme of seminars and conferences to train the personnel responsible for administering and applying the WTO Agreement	April 2001
5. Updating and enforcement of the new domestic legislation	April 2001