

Trade Policy Review Body

TRADE POLICY REVIEW MECHANISM

EL SALVADOR

Arrangements for Review Meeting

Communication from the Chairperson of the Trade Policy Review Body

1. In pursuance of Article IV, paragraph 4 and Annex 3 of the WTO Agreement, a meeting of the Trade Policy Review Body is scheduled for 3 and 5 February 2003 to conduct the second review of the trade policies and practices of El Salvador (WTO/AIR/2003).

2. This communication sets out arrangements concerning the review meeting. In this connection, attention is also drawn to the procedures for the conduct of reviews contained in the rules of procedure of the Trade Policy Review Body (WT/TPR/6).

I. QUESTIONS IN WRITING IN ADVANCE OF THE MEETING

3. Members wishing to submit written questions to the Member under review should do so at least one week before the review meeting to allow time to prepare replies. For the forthcoming review, such questions should therefore be with the Trade Policies Review Division of the Secretariat by Monday, 27 January 2003. All questions submitted will be made available to Members at the beginning of the meeting.

II. ANSWERS IN WRITING BY THE MEMBER UNDER REVIEW

4. In the course of the discussions at the review meeting, the Member under review may indicate that it intends to provide supplementary information, in writing, on specific points raised. Upon receipt, the Secretariat will circulate a document containing this information to all Members.

III. DISCUSSANT

5. In consultation with the Member under review, the Chairperson of the Trade Policy Review Body may choose discussants who, in their personal capacity, will introduce the discussions in the Body. H.E. Mr. Hernando José Gómez (Colombia) will act as discussant for the review of El Salvador. A document summarizing the main points to be raised by the discussant will be circulated one week in advance of the meeting.

IV. STRUCTURE OF THE MEETING

6. Trade policy reviews cover four broad headings:

- (a) appreciation of the full range of the Member's trade policies and practices;
- (b) relevant background: wider economic and developmental needs, including the external environment;

- (c) impact of the Member's trade policies and practices on the functioning of the multilateral trading system; and
- (d) general comments by way of assessment and evaluation.

7. Meetings take place in two sessions. The first session is devoted to the opening statement by the Member under review and the discussant, and remarks and questions from the floor. The discussion in the second session, when the Member under review will reply to questions, is based on main themes identified after the opening meeting by the Chairperson, the discussant and the Secretariat in consultation with the Member.

V. DOCUMENTATION AND PRESS ARRANGEMENTS

8. Reports by the Member under review and the Secretariat are contained in the following documents:

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| WT/TPR/G/111 | Report by the Government of El Salvador |
| WT/TPR/S/111 | Report by the Secretariat |

9. The press embargo for the review of El Salvador will end at 13.00 GMT (15.00 Geneva time) on 5 February 2003.

VI. MINUTES

10. Minutes of the meeting will be circulated promptly and will be published together with the reports by the Government of El Salvador and the Secretariat.
