



Council for Trade in Goods

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL FOR TRADE IN GOODS
12 AND 13 NOVEMBER 2018**

CHAIRPERSON: HE MR STEPHEN CORNELIUS DE BOER (CANADA)

Addendum

**8 TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO – REQUEST FOR AUTHORITY TO ENTER INTO NEGOTIATIONS
UNDER ARTICLE XXVIII:4 OF THE GATT 1994 (G/SECRET/43)**

8.1. The Chairperson recalled to the attention of delegations that, at the 12 November 2018 meeting of the Council for Trade in Goods, when considering agenda item 8 on the request submitted by Trinidad and Tobago for authority to enter into negotiations under GATT Article XXVIII:4 (document G/SECRET/43), the delegations of the Dominican Republic and Turkey had indicated that they required further time to consider Trinidad and Tobago's request. Therefore, this agenda item was suspended; however, considering that the Ad Note to GATT Article XXVIII:4 mandated that the Goods Council should make a determination on the request of authorization to enter into negotiations under GATT Article XXVIII:4 within 30 days of the submission of the matter to Members, which in this case meant not later than 12 December 2018, the Council had also agreed that, unless Members had contacted him in writing, via the Secretariat, with a copy to Trinidad and Tobago, by cob on 30 November 2018, to object to this request, it would be considered that Trinidad and Tobago was authorized to enter into such negotiation.

8.2. He also informed the Council that, in a communication dated 30 November 2018, the delegation of Turkey had indicated that it objected to Trinidad and Tobago's request for such authorization; nevertheless, it was ready to enter into bilateral consultations with Trinidad and Tobago on this issue. In light of the above, in a communication dated 30 November 2018 he had reconvened this meeting to resume discussion of this one outstanding agenda item only.

8.3. The delegate of Turkey thanked the Chair for reconvening this meeting to discuss Trinidad and Tobago's request to modify its bound tariff commitments on imports of "Other Hydraulic cement products" under the tariff heading HS 2523.90 of Trinidad and Tobago's Schedule of Concessions. As he had indicated at the 12 November meeting, Turkey was Trinidad and Tobago's main trading partner to be affected by the proposed change; thus, Turkey had a substantial trade interest in this issue. He also indicated that the relevant Turkish authorities had evaluated the matter in detail and, as a result, Turkey had submitted, in due time, its written objection to Trinidad and Tobago's request.

8.4. This issue had also been the subject of bilateral consultations between Turkey and the delegation of Trinidad and Tobago. In this context, his delegation had indicated to Trinidad and Tobago that the bilateral trade between Turkey and Trinidad and Tobago was based on a limited number of products, and that the product in question was exported by Turkey in significant commercial quantities to Trinidad and Tobago. Turkey considered that a modification of the bound tariffs on imports of this product might result in an increase in tariff levels that would detract from the current stability of Trinidad and Tobago's market access commitments. Therefore, as prescribed by the Ad Note to GATT Article XXVIII:4, this might lead to undue disturbance of the bilateral trade between the two countries. Consequently, Turkey's position remained unchanged in that it continued to object to Trinidad and Tobago's request for authorization to enter into negotiations on modifying its bound tariffs on the import of the product in question.

8.5. He also noted that Trinidad and Tobago still held the right to modify such tariff line through GATT Articles XXVIII:1 and XXVIII:5, within the time-frames set out therein. Turkey stood ready to continue to engage in bilateral discussions with Trinidad and Tobago on potential ways to further develop their bilateral trade in a balanced manner.

8.6. The delegate of Trinidad and Tobago noted the objection made by Turkey to her delegation's request and said that Trinidad and Tobago would continue bilateral discussions with Turkey aimed at a positive resolution of this issue. She also indicated that informal bilateral discussions had revealed that the objection would not be withdrawn at this meeting, and that the Turkish authorities were of the view that the product was of significant commercial importance for Turkey. Trinidad and Tobago reserved its right to revisit this matter at the CTG's next meeting.

8.7. The Chairperson thanked the two delegations for their interventions, from which he had understood that, at the current stage, there was no consensus to authorize Trinidad and Tobago to enter into negotiations under GATT Article XXVIII:4 of the tariff line HS sub-heading 2523.90. He encouraged Turkey and Trinidad and Tobago to continue discussing this issue bilaterally and proposed that the Council take note of the statements made and of the fact that Trinidad and Tobago had not been authorized to enter into negotiations under GATT Article XXVIII:4. In closing, he indicated that the Secretariat would update the Annual Report of the Goods Council to the General Council to reflect this discussion.

8.8. The Council so agreed.
