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**Committee on Import Licensing**

Original: English

## **IMPORT LICENSING SYSTEM OF ARGENTINA**

### QUESTIONS FROM THE EUROPEAN UNION TO ARGENTINA

The following communication, dated 27 March 2018, is being circulated at the request of the delegation of the European Union.

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The EU thanks Argentina for its notification circulated as document G/LIC/N/2/ARG/28, referring to the Trade Resolution No 523/2017 on automatic and non-automatic import licensing and Ministry of Production Resolution No. 292-E/2017 repealing Ministry of Production Resolution No. 5/2015 and the amending regulations thereto (Secretariat for Trade Resolutions Nos. 2/2016, 32/2016, 114/2016, 172/2016, 264/2016, 301/2016 and 152/2017).

The EU would like to ask Argentina some clarifications not only with reference to this notification (G/LIC/N/2/ARG/28) but also with reference to its annual notification (G/LIC/N/3/ARG/13).

According to the notification G/LIC/N/2/ARG/28, Argentina has substantially changed its import licensing procedures in place. The EU understands that the renewed import licensing regime aims at consolidating the list of products previously repealed by resolution 292/2017 and replaced by the notified resolution 523/2017.

It seems however to the EU that, in practice, nothing changes and that a system of non-automatic licences remains in place justified by the need to establish an appropriate prior verification system for ensuring compliance with the conditions governing the importation of the goods, in accordance with the provisions of Annexes II to XVII to Secretariat for Trade Resolution No. 523/2017.

The EU notes also that the annual notification (G/LIC/N/3/ARG/13) does not contain the list of products subject to licensing procedures as well as several of the information requested under Article 5 of the Import Licensing Agreement.

EU question No 1: Could Argentina submit detailed information about the products subject to automatic import licensing procedures as well as the ones subject to non-automatic import licensing procedures?

EU question No 2: Could also Argentina submit a table listing all products subject to import licensing procedures and clearly indicating how the amendments introduced by Resolution No 523/2017 have affected each product?

According to the notification G/LIC/N/3/ARG/13, Argentina states that, after having examined other possible options, it considers the system of non-automatic licensing established by Resolution No 523/2017 to be the most appropriate for obtaining an advance supply of descriptive statistical information for historical records.

EU question No 3: Could Argentina give further details clarifying what other options have been considered and the reasons for not having being considered appropriate?

Resolution No. 5/2018<sup>1</sup>, dated 8 January 2018, of the Secretariat of Commerce significantly reduced the universe of tariff positions covered by NAL regime, eliminating 300 positions covered by such regime. The positions that no longer require NAL include kraft papers, vertical freezers, clothes dryers, motorcycles up to 500 c.c., parts of bicycles, leather clothing accessories, laminated steel products, iron bars, aluminium bars, aluminium sheets, copper sheets and wires, saws, boilers and their parts, cranes, seeders, parts of wagons, ships, cotton spinning, different agar-agar chemicals, alcohols, aluminium sulphate, ferrocerium, insecticides, herbicides, polymers, pvc films, acrylic yarns, fibbers acrylic polyesters, porcelain, glass, fittings, turbines and their parts, fittings, filters, scales weights, harvesters, ingot moulds, valves, electric motors.

EU question No 4: The EU understands that for these goods there is no longer the need to establish an appropriate prior verification system for ensuring compliance with the conditions governing the importation of goods. Could Argentina give further details clarifying what were the considerations that led to such a conclusion and the decision to eliminate the non-automatic licences for these particular products?

EU question No 5: Could also Argentina clarify whether the new rules will be notified?

According to the information available to the EU<sup>2</sup>, Argentina is planning to gradually further remove approximately 800 of the remaining NALs in the next 12 to 18 months. However, it seems that they would be replaced by a scheme of technical regulations.

EU question No 6: Could Argentina give further information on this issue, clarifying in particular whether the information is correct?

EU question No 7: Could Argentina clarify what products will be affected by those technical regulations?

EU question No 8: Could also Argentina submit some indications on the timing expected for the introduction of the technical regulations?

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.boletinoficial.gob.ar/#!DetalleNorma/177445/20180111>.

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.baenegocios.com/economia-finanzas/El-Gobierno-reemplazara-licencias-no-automaticas-por-normas-industriales-20180111-0063.html>.