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Committee on Import Licensing

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IMPORT LICENSING SYSTEM OF EGYPT

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS FROM THE EUROPEAN UNION TO EGYPT

The following communication, dated 28 September 2020, is being circulated at the request of the delegation of the European Union.

The EU thanks Egypt for the replies (G/LIC/Q/EGY/2) to its previous questions (G/LIC/Q/EGY/1). However, we would like to request further clarifications and answers to our additional questions on the new laws adopted by Egypt.

EU additional questions

EU question No 1: Could Egypt submit the following information on import licensing of ducklings and canned meat under Prime Minister's Decree No. 2080/2018 and Prime Minister's Decision No. 222/2018:

- a. Which concrete products are subject to import licensing under each act?
- b. What is the reason for limiting the quantity of imports of products covered by these acts?
- c. Please list all dates on which the two committees created by the above acts met since their establishment (separately for each committee)?
- d. What is the procedure to inform importers about the meeting dates of the committees and about the outcome of the importers' requests for import permits?
- e. Under which conditions import permits are approved under each act?
- f. Are there any appeal mechanisms foreseen for importers, in case their import requests are rejected?
- g. How many requests for import permits for goods originating from the EU have been rejected since the creation of the two committees and on which grounds (separately for each committee)?
- h. When will Egypt submit the notification of these laws to the WTO?

EU question No 2: Could Egypt submit all relevant information justifying the import prohibitions applied to sugar under Decree 259/2020 and Decree 420/2020 extending the import restrictions?

EU question No 3: Could Egypt submit the following information on food import licensing under Decree 6/2020:

- a. Has Egypt notified this new Decree to WTO?
- b. How has Egypt ensured predictability for companies given that the Decree entered into force one day after its publication? A 6-month transition period was provided only for companies that have already carried out import activities. What about the rest of the companies?
- c. Could Egypt clarify under which conditions an importer can be included in the White List?
- d. Could Egypt clarify what happens after the 30 days during which NFSA should take action on a license request in case no such action is taken (meaning the request is neither approved nor rejected)?
- e. There is a possible double registration for food products falling under both, Decree 6/2020 and Decree 43/2016. It seems that both exporters and importers of the very same food articles will need to be registered – exporters at General Organization for Export and Import

Control and importers at the National Food Safety Authority - creating a substantial and unnecessary burden. Could Egypt clarify whether and when NFSA will completely take over the registration of food products?

EU question No 4: Could Egypt explain whether Decree 43/2016 limits the number of suppliers that can be registered under one trademark? We have received information that some EU exporters are being refused registration of new suppliers on the basis that the number of those already registered under a specific trademark is too high.
