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Committee on Import Licensing

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IMPORT LICENSING SYSTEM OF SAINT LUCIA

QUESTIONS FROM THE UNITED STATES TO SAINT LUCIA

The following communication, dated 11 April 2013, is being circulated at the request of the delegation of the United States.

We understand that in October 2012, the government of St. Lucia informed poultry importers via a letter from The Secretary of Agriculture that the government was increasing a domestic purchase requirement for poultry from 20 per cent to 25 per cent, and that there would be a further 5 per cent increase during the second phase of implementation. There is also a 40 per cent domestic purchase requirement for pork. The government seems to require that importers provide proof of the domestic purchase in order to obtain an import license. We can find neither the law that supports this policy nor the administrative procedures required to implement any of St. Lucia's import licensing requirements. We request the government's response to the following questions:

- What is the legal basis (i.e., the laws and regulations) for St. Lucia's import licensing requirements and the domestic purchase requirements? Where are the laws and regulations published?
 - What is the government's rationale for its domestic purchase requirements for poultry, pork and pork products?
 - By what means does the government of St. Lucia ensure that import licensing procedures are not utilized in a manner contrary to the principles and obligations of GATT 1994?
 - Please direct us to St. Lucia's WTO notifications related to poultry or pork market arrangements, domestic purchase requirements, and/or import licensing requirements in light of its WTO commitments.
 - For purposes of the WTO Agreement on Import Licensing Procedures, if St. Lucia has not notified its import licensing procedures to the Import Licensing Committee as required by the Agreement, please do so immediately and provide copies of the publications to the Secretariat as required by Article 1.4(a).
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