TUNISIA - TEMPORARY SUSPENSION OF BOUND DUTIES

Request for a Waiver under Article XXV:5

Considering that the Government of Tunisia is implementing a vast economic reform programme undertaken with the co-operation of international financial institutions and that this programme, accompanied by certain tariff adjustment measures, provides inter alia for a liberalization of foreign trade;

Noting that this liberalization programme will consist in subjecting much of local industry to foreign competition and that tariffs will thus become the essential institution of protection for domestic industry;

Considering that in the context of this re-organization the Tunisian authorities intend to introduce a temporary increase in customs duties for a limited number of tariff items and that the new rates will be phased out over a three-year period, the list of tariff items and proposed rates being annexed;

Noting that, to this end, the Tunisian Government has requested that, pursuant to Article XXV:5 of the General Agreement, its obligations under Article II of the General Agreement be waived to enable it to suspend the bound duties for the tariff items concerned, the Tunisian authorities remaining at the disposal of the contracting parties for any further information or clarification of;

The CONTRACTING PARTIES, acting pursuant to the provisions of Article XXV:5 of the General Agreement,

Decide, in view of the exceptional circumstances described above, to waive the provisions of Article II of the General Agreement for the Tunisian Government for a three-year period from 1 January 1993 in order to enable it to suspend the bound duties listed in the Annex. The Tunisian Government undertakes to phase out over the next three years the increased customs duties on the products mentioned in the Annex.