GENERALIZED SYSTEM OF PREFERENCES

Notification by Austria

Addendum

In a communication dated 21 February 1986, the Permanent Mission of Austria has provided the following information regarding some changes made in its GSP scheme on 1 January 1986, including the reduction of GSP rates on about 1,900 tariff items in step with the implementation of Tokyo Round concessions (the final stage) and the addition of Vanuatu to its list of least-developed countries.

1. With effect from 1 January 1986, Austria has implemented the eighth and last stage of duty reductions under the Geneva (1979) Protocol to the GATT (Multilateral Trade Negotiations). The formula for calculating the tariff cut under the Austrian GSP scheme is also applied on the most-favoured-nation rates thus reduced. As a consequence, preferential duty rates have been reduced accordingly.

It should be noted that the implementation of the eighth and last stage of MTN duty reduction was originally scheduled for 1 January 1987 only. However, with a view to promoting international trade and to combat protectionist tendencies, Austria - together with the other Member States of the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) - has decided to advance the implementation of this stage by one calendar year.

This improvement of the Austrian GSP scheme results in reduced preferential tariff rates for around 1900 tariff lines. Due to the high number of tariff lines concerned, no individual description of the tariff situation can be given.

2. With effect from the same date, the following changes have been made in the list of beneficiaries under the Austrian GSP scheme:

- "Brunei Darussalam" and "St. Christopher and Nevis" have been added to Group I of the list of preference-receiving countries. With the same date, the dependent territories "Brunei" and "St. Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla" have been deleted from this list, whereas the dependent territory "Anguilla" (which is dependent on the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) has been added to this list;
Vanuatu has been included in the list of least-developed countries which benefit from more favourable preferential treatment under Group II of Annex C of the Austrian Customs Preference Act.

3. With effect from the same date, the rule on cumulative acquisition of origin as applied from 1 October 1982 has been amended to reflect the membership of Brunei Darussalam in the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN).