COLOMBIA - ESTABLISHMENT OF A NEW SCHEDULE LXXVI

Request for Extension of Waiver

The following communication, dated 20 November 1991, has been received from the Permanent Mission of Colombia with the request that it be circulated to the contracting parties and considered by the CONTRACTING PARTIES at their forty-seventh session.

With reference to the Decision of 13 November 1990 (document L/6791) that authorized Colombia to establish a new Schedule LXXVI and will expire on 31 December 1991, I wish to inform you that the Colombian authorities are compiling the information, which will be submitted shortly. Consequently, it has not been possible to conduct the negotiations and consultations provided for in that Decision, and I therefore request the CONTRACTING PARTIES to extend the Decision until 30 June 1992.

To facilitate consideration of this matter, the text of a draft Decision is annexed.
Considering that, in a communication dated 30 November 1990, the Government of Colombia notified the CONTRACTING PARTIES that the governments of the member countries of the Andean Group had agreed that the Common Tariff Nomenclature of the Member States of the Cartagena Agreement (NANDINA), based on the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System (Harmonized System), should replace the NABANDINA, which is based on the Customs Co-operation Council Nomenclature (CCCN);

Considering that, since it was necessary to make a number of internal adjustments in Colombia in order to implement the new nomenclature, the Government of Colombia decided to bring the NANDINA into force on 1 January 1991;

Considering that, by a Decision of 13 November 1990, the CONTRACTING PARTIES suspended the application of the provisions of Article II of the General Agreement to enable the Government of Colombia to implement the NANDINA on 1 January 1991 and subsequently conduct negotiations;

Noting that the Colombian authorities are compiling the documentation required for the consultations and negotiations under Article XXVIII, which will be submitted in the near future and circulated to the contracting parties;

Recognizing that, in view of time constraints, it will not be possible for Colombia to conduct consultations and negotiations under the procedures of Article XXVIII within the time-limit established;

Taking note that the Government of Colombia is requesting an extension of the temporary waiver of its obligations under Article II of the General Agreement until 30 June 1992;

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

Decide, in view of the exceptional circumstances, to extend until 30 June 1992 the time-limit provided for in the Decision of 13 November 1990.