

WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

No. _____

G/SECRET/20
30 January 2004

(04-0350)

Original: English

ARTICLE XXIV:6 NEGOTIATIONS

Enlargement of the European Union

Communication from the European Communities

The following communication, dated 19 January 2004, is being circulated at the request of the Delegation of the European Communities.

Notification
by the European Communities to
the World Trade Organization and its Members
concerning decisions to enter into a customs union, resulting from the

Enlargement of the European Union

by the accession of

The Czech Republic, the Republic of Estonia, the Republic of Cyprus, the Republic of Latvia, the Republic of Lithuania, the Republic of Hungary, the Republic of Malta, the Republic of Poland, the Republic of Slovenia and the Slovak Republic;

Pursuant to the Understanding on the Interpretation of Article XXIV GATT 1994, paragraph 4, incorporating the Guidelines adopted on 10 November 1980 (BISD 27S/26-28), paragraph 1 (the "Guidelines").

Following, *inter alia*, the decision of 14 April 2003 of the Council of the European Union on the admission to the European Union of the Czech Republic, the Republic of Estonia, the Republic of Cyprus, the Republic of Latvia, the Republic of Lithuania, the Republic of Hungary, the Republic of Malta, the Republic of Poland, the Republic of Slovenia and the Slovak Republic and pending the finalisation of ratification procedures, the European Communities have the honour to notify the WTO and its Members that these states have decided to become members of the European Union on 1 May 2004. The Treaty of Accession is published in the *Official Journal of the European Union* L 236 of 23 September 2003. A version subject to a legal disclaimer is published at: http://europa.eu.int/comm/enlargement/negotiations/treaty_of_accession_2003/index.htm.

Accordingly, the European Communities hereby notifies, within the framework of procedures laid down in Article XXIV GATT 1994, and in particular paragraph 6 thereof, the withdrawal on 1 May 2004 of the commitments in Schedule XCII Czech Republic, Schedule CXLIV Republic of Estonia, Schedule CVII Republic of Cyprus, Schedule CXLIII Republic of Latvia, Schedule CL Republic of Lithuania, Schedule LXXI Republic of Hungary, Schedule CXVII Republic of Malta,

./.

Schedule LXV Republic of Poland, Schedule XCVI Republic of Slovenia, Schedule XCIII Slovak Republic and Schedule CXL¹ of the European Communities of 15.

The European Communities is ready to enter into Article XXIV and XXVIII GATT 1994 procedures including tariff negotiations or consultations to address compensatory adjustments provided for under Article XXIV.6 GATT 1994.

The data² necessary for the purposes of applying Article XXIV.6 GATT 1994, as provided for in the Guidelines, paragraph 2, first and second sentences, is included in the Annex of this notification. In accordance with the Guidelines, paragraph 2, third sentence, and paragraph 3, any proposed modifications or compensatory adjustments will be circulated and communicated separately.

The EC intends to communicate further data in the near future to members having negotiation rights.

Pending the completion of the Article XXIV and XXVIII GATT 1994 procedures and the creation of a new schedule valid for the European Communities of 25, the commitments in the European Communities Schedule CXL will be fully respected. The new members of the European Union intend to align their Schedules with those of the European Communities on 1 May 2004.

Pursuant to the Guidelines, paragraph 1, the European Communities transmits this notification to the Secretariat, and requests the Secretariat to distribute this notification to all other Members in a secret document.

The above-mentioned data are available in **electronic form only** on the WTO Members' Homepage (<http://members.wto.org>), go to WTO Resources, then Market Access Schedules on Goods (login), and then to Other. Download the zipped database and open using MS Access, choose your country to print the applicable data.

¹ This schedule is a total of the tariff and other commitments of the European Communities of 15 circulated under cover of WTO document G/L/65/Rev.1 of 19 March 1996. It has subsequently been modified by G/MA/TAR/RS/16 of 2 April 1997 (certified WT/Let/156), G/MA/TAR/RS/30 of 13 May 1997 (certified WT/Let/178), G/L/65/Rev.1/Add.2 of 21 October 1997, G/MA/TAR/RS/47 of 10 February 1998 (certified WT/Let/261), G/L/65/Rev.1/Add.2/Corr.1 of 10 February 1998, G/L/65/Rev.1/Add.3 of 23 November 1998, G/L/65/Rev.1/Add.4 of 1 July 1999, and G/L/65/Rev.1/Add.5 of 22 February 2000.

² Please see the bottom of the page for more information on how to obtain the data. The data are available in English only.