

ARTICLE XXIV:6 NEGOTIATIONS

Enlargement of the European Union

Communication from the European Communities

The following communication, dated 27 September 2006, has been received from 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 Republic of Bulgaria and Romania;

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 25 April 2005 of the Council of the European Union on the admission to the European Union of the Republic of Bulgaria and Romania and pending the finalisation of ratification procedures, leading to the entry into force of the Treaty of Accession, 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 January 2007. The Treaty of Accession is published in the *Official Journal of the European Union* L 157 of 21 June 2005.¹

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 modification of the Schedule of the European Communities in order to cover these new members of the European Union.

The new members of the European Union will be subject to the Schedules of the European Communities on 1 January 2007. Consequently, the commitments in Schedule CXXXIX of the Republic of Bulgaria and Schedule LXIX of Romania are withdrawn on 1 January 2007.

¹ <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/JOHtml.do?uri=OJ:L:2005:157:SOM:EN:HTML>

The data 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.² 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 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 European Communities requests the Secretariat to inscribe an item concerning these notifications on the agenda of the next Council meeting, subject to the rules on inclusion of items on the agenda, so that the Council may take any appropriate actions in this respect.

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.

Annex: Data for applying Article XXIV.6².

² The data are available in electronic format and in English only.