

**GENERAL AGREEMENT
ON TARIFFS AND TRADE**

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ACCESSION OF PANAMA

Communication from Panama

The following communication, dated 3 February 1995, has been received from the Permanent Mission of Panama.

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Panama to the WTO-GATT has the honour to submit the following documents to the Secretariat to be made available to the contracting parties:

- A. Draft Law on "Defence of Free Competition and Consumer Protection", which contains provisions governing anti-dumping, countervailing measures and safeguards. This draft law also provides for the total abolition of price controls.
- B. Preliminary draft law on protection of animal health.
- C. Preliminary draft law on plant health.
- D. Preliminary draft law setting out measures covering the regulation of and procedures for import licences.
- E. Official Journal No. 22706 of 19 January 1995 containing Cabinet Decree No. 2 of 10 January 1995 amending the import tariff.
- F. A table of Panama's tariff structure correlating the Harmonized System with the CCCN (Customs Cooperation Council Nomenclature).

Document "A" was approved by the Executive in the Cabinet meeting of January this year and will shortly be sent to the Legislative Assembly for approval as a Law of the Republic.

Documents "B", "C" and "D" are at the discussion stage in the Executive Body, and are being submitted to you in order to have relevant comments from the contracting parties. We would appreciate it if such comments could be sent as soon as possible, so that they may be considered by the Executive.

These draft and preliminary draft laws have been drawn up to eliminate practices which are inconsistent with the General Agreement and to bring our legislation into line with the General Agreement.

The above-mentioned documents are available in the Secretariat (Accessions Division, Room 2075) for consultation by delegations.