

**GENERAL AGREEMENT
ON TARIFFS AND TRADE**

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ACCESSION OF HONDURAS

Communication from Honduras

The following communication, dated 5 October 1993, has been received from the Ministry of the Economy and Trade of Honduras.

COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT OF A NEW HONDURAN BILL
ON ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH

Honduras wishes to state that the objectives of its government include the prevention, control and eradication of plant and animal pests and diseases which could be damaging to the health of human beings or animals, to natural resources or to the environment.

Accordingly, Honduras has drawn up a draft bill on animal and plant health that is in line with the world of today and the needs that have emerged and the developments that have taken place in the region and throughout the world. This bill has emerged from the negotiations on the harmonization of phytosanitary and zoosanitary policies, standards and regulations among the countries of the CA-4 Group (Honduras, Guatemala, El Salvador and Nicaragua), and was developed with the co-operation and advice of international bodies specialized in the field, such as the Regional International Organization for Plant Protection and Animal Health (RIOPPAH), the Inter-American Institute for Co-operation on Agriculture (IICA), the German Agency for Co-operation in Honduras (GTZ) and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

With the implementation of this bill, phytosanitary and zoosanitary requirements with respect to imports will be harmonized at the regional level in order to make the procedures more transparent and flexible, thereby stimulating free trade among the countries without posing any threat to health. To this end Honduras will strengthen its trade relations on the basis of international standards, guidelines and recommendations developed within the framework of international conventions, codes or treaties in the phytosanitary and zoosanitary fields.

This draft bill has been submitted to the National Congress for approval, and will be communicated to the GATT Secretariat in due course so that it can be brought to the attention of the contracting parties.