

**GENERAL AGREEMENT
ON TARIFFS AND TRADE**

RESTRICTED
L/7556
17 November 1994
Limited Distribution

(94-2445)

REPORT (1994) OF THE COMMITTEE ON IMPORT LICENSING

1. This report, submitted under Article 5.5 of the Agreement on Import Licensing Procedures, sets out developments in the implementation and operation of the Agreement since the Committee's last report on 19 November 1993 (L/7313).
2. The Agreement on Import Licensing Procedures entered into force on 1 January 1980. As at 8 November 1994, there were 30 signatories to the Agreement: Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bolivia, Canada, Chile, Czech Republic, Egypt, the European Communities, Finland, Hong Kong, Hungary, India, Japan, Mexico, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Philippines, Poland, Romania, Singapore, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, South Africa, Sweden, Switzerland, the United States and Yugoslavia.¹ Argentina and Bolivia have signed the Agreement subject to ratification.
3. The following 30 governments have observer status in the Committee on Import Licensing: Bangladesh, Brazil, Bulgaria, China, Chinese Taipei, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Gabon, Ghana, Indonesia, Israel, Jamaica, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Malta, Nicaragua, Peru, the Russian Federation, Senegal, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Venezuela and Zaïre. Two international organizations, IMF and UNCTAD, attend meetings of the Committee in an observer capacity.

Developments since the Committee's last report

4. During the period under review, the Committee has held two meetings, on 5 May 1994 (LIC/M/34), and 3 November 1994 (LIC/M/35, to be issued). The Committee has held 35 regular meetings since the Agreement came into force.²
5. During the reporting period, copies of publications containing information on new rules concerning import licensing procedures or lists of products subject to licensing requirements were made available to the Secretariat as and when published (LIC/3/Add.39 and 40). In addition, 11 signatories have brought up-to-date the data supplied by them in response to the GATT Questionnaire on Import Licensing Procedures (annexed to L/5640/Rev.10). The current status of replies to the questionnaire by signatories (issued as addenda to L/5640) is annexed.
6. At its meeting of 5 May 1994, Mexico and the United States expressed concern that the European Communities had not eliminated the discriminatory features of its import licensing system for bananas, found to be inconsistent with GATT rules. Hungary expressed concern about a discriminatory import licensing requirement maintained by Austria on a number of products originating in some countries,

¹Refers to the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

²A note on a special meeting of the Committee held in April 1985 concerning the implementation of the Agreement with respect to developing countries is contained in document LIC/8.

including Hungary. The United States referred to the information which is required to be provided to the Committee in the context of tariffication of agricultural non-tariff barriers and also to the requirement for information from observer governments relevant to matters within the purview of the Agreement.

7. At its meeting of 3 November 1994, the representative of the United States expressed her Government's continuing concern over the discriminatory aspects of the European Communities' import licensing regime for bananas, which, in her view, was clearly inconsistent with a number of provisions of the GATT and the Agreement on Import Licensing Procedures. The United States further noted that the European Communities had failed to notify the licensing regime for bananas to the Committee. The representative of the European Communities did not agree with the views expressed by the United States, and explained the European Communities' position on this matter. In this context, the Committee also heard statements from the representatives of Australia and Ecuador. At the same meeting, the Committee took note of information provided by Switzerland concerning modifications to its import licensing system to further liberalize the licensing requirements for wine.

ANNEX

AGREEMENT ON IMPORT LICENSING PROCEDURES

Status of Replies to GATT Questionnaire by Signatories

<u>Signatory</u>	<u>Document No.</u>	<u>Date of most recent reply</u>
Argentina	L/5640/Add.27/Rev.1	14.10.94
Australia	Add.13/Rev.8	12.10.94
Austria	Add.35/Rev.2	06.10.94
Bolivia	Add.51 and Corr.1	25.10.93
Canada	Add.10/Rev.5	10.12.93
Chile	Add.8/Rev.1 and Suppl.4	25.06.91
Czech Republic	Add.38/Rev.1	27.10.92
Egypt	Add.37 and Corr.1	24.10.86
European Communities	Add.21/Rev.1 and Suppl.1-3 and Rev.2 and Suppl.1-2	30.09.91
Finland	Add.6/Rev.3	20.12.93
Hong Kong	Add.36/Rev.8	04.11.94
Hungary	Add.12/Rev.1 and Suppl.2	27.04.90
India	Add.7/Rev.6 and Corr.1	16.11.94
Japan	Add.28 and Suppl.1 and Corr.1	16.10.89
Mexico	Add.41 and Corr.1	20.10.87
New Zealand	Add.18/Rev.3	16.07.93
Nigeria
Norway	Add.2/Rev.4 and Suppl.1	30.09.94
Pakistan	Add.25 and Suppl.1	13.11.86
Philippines	Add.26/Rev.4	19.03.93
Poland	Add.39/Rev.1	23.09.88
Romania	Add.32/Rev.2	30.04.93
Singapore	Add.33/Rev.2	31.10.90
Slovak Republic	Add.38/Rev.1	27.10.92
Slovenia
South Africa	Add.17/Rev.4 and Suppl.2	15.09.94
Sweden	Add.14/Rev.6	11.02.94
Switzerland	Add.19/Rev.1 and Suppl.3	25.10.93
United States	Add.40/Rev.4	30.09.94