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1 ARTICLE 4

1.1 Text of Article 4

Article 4

Institutions

There is hereby established a Committee on Import Licensing composed of representatives from each of the Members. The Committee shall elect its own Chairman and Vice-Chairman and shall meet as necessary for the purpose of affording Members the opportunity of consulting on any matters relating to the operation of this Agreement or the furtherance of its objectives.

1.2 Committee on Import Licensing

1.2.1 Rules of Procedure

1. At its meeting of 1 December 1995, the Council for Trade in Goods approved the Rules of Procedure for meetings of the Committee on Import Licensing¹, consisting of the General Council's Rules of Procedure² applied *mutatis mutandis* with agreed modifications.

1.2.2 Activities

2. The Committee on Import Licensing has held 46 meetings from 1 January 1995 to 31 December 2017.³ The Committee reports to the Council for Trade in Goods on an annual basis.⁴

1.2.2.1 Procedures for the review of notifications

3. At its meeting on 23 October 1996, the Committee on Import Licensing adopted the following understanding on procedures for the review of notifications submitted under the Agreement:

"On the basis of Article 4 of the Agreement, it was recognized that Members could express views on notifications of import licensing procedures as required under various Articles of the Agreement, and request clarifications, as may be necessary, from other Members on matters related to the Agreement on Import Licensing Procedures. It was, however, agreed that such views, and requests for clarification, should be communicated, in writing, to the delegations concerned with copies for

¹ G/C/M/7, section 2. The text of the Rules of Procedure can be found in G/L/147.

² WT/L/161.

³ G/LIC/M/1-33.

⁴ G/L/29 for 1995; G/L/127 for 1996; G/L/203 for 1997; G/L/264 for 1998; G/L/336 for 1999; G/L/403 for 2000; G/L/493 for 2001; G/L/573 and Add.1 for 2002; G/L/652 for 2003; G/L/715 for 2004; G/L/753 for 2005; G/L/800 for 2006; G/L/836 for 2007; G/L/868 for 2008; G/L/903 for 2009; G/L/941 and Corr.1 for 2010; G/L/968 and Corr.1 for 2011; G/L/1011 for 2012; G/L/1048 for 2013; G/L/1078 for 2014; G/L/1132 for 2015; G/L/1162 for 2016; and G/L/1187 for 2017.

information to the Secretariat preferably 21 days, but at least ten working days, in advance of the meeting at which they would be raised. Replies to the questions should also be forwarded to the delegations having raised the questions, in writing, with copies for information to the Secretariat. The questions and replies thus received would be circulated by the Secretariat."⁵

1.2.2.2 Overlapping or duplication of notifications

4. On the question of possible duplication or overlapping of notifications, i.e. whether import licensing aspects associated with the administration of tariff quotas resulting from tariffication in agriculture should be notified to the Committee on Import Licensing or to the Committee on Agriculture, at its meeting of 12 October 1995 the Committee on Import Licensing agreed that:

"all import licensing procedures, including those dealing with the administration of tariff quotas in agriculture, should be notified to the Committee on Import Licensing. Any problem that might arise relating to duplication or overlapping of notifications, as well as related questions of simplification, could be taken up as necessary, at the appropriate body, i.e. the Working Group on Notification Obligations and Procedures."⁶

5. In its report to the Council for Trade in Goods, dated 21 August 1996, the Working Group on Notification Obligations and Procedures concluded that efforts to remove this possible duplication were not warranted.⁷

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Current as of: February 2018

⁵ G/LIC/M/4, para. 5. The text of the adopted Understanding can be found in G/LIC/4. Questions and replies circulated under these procedures can be found in the document series G/LIC/Q/*.

⁶ G/LIC/M/2, paras. 21-23.

⁷ G/NOP/W/16/Rev.1, paras. 25-28.