

**Committee on Market Access**

**TRADE IN PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS**

The following communication on Trade in Pharmaceutical Products, dated 8 October 1996, has been submitted by the Commission of the European Communities on behalf of the WTO Members concerned.

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1. As noted in the record of discussion on the treatment of pharmaceutical products which took place during the UR negotiations (L/7430 of 25 March 1994), the WTO Members concerned agreed to meet under the auspices of the Council for Trade in Goods of the WTO - normally at least once every three years - to review the product coverage with a view to including, by consensus, additional pharmaceutical products for tariff elimination.
  2. A series of meetings has taken place over the period 30 November 1995 - 11 July 1996 to conduct this first review which will result in extra products (465) receiving duty free treatment in addition to the products (over 6,000) already covered. It has been agreed that the duty free treatment for these extra products should be implemented by the beginning of April 1997. It should be noted that during this review, it emerged that a small number of products (25) whose use was predominantly non-pharmaceutical, had been inadvertently included among those pharmaceuticals already receiving duty free treatment. Members concerned will notify to the Secretariat the appropriate changes to be made to their schedules according to the existing procedures.
  3. Following the review, the revised consolidated versions of Annex I-IV incorporating the additional products eligible for duty free treatment have been deposited with the WTO Secretariat

These revised Annexes, which replace those attached to L/7430, also include revised HS classification rulings issued by the World Customs Organisation and technical corrections (e.g. misspellings of product descriptions).