

Textiles Monitoring Body

REPORT OF THE EIGHTY-FIFTH MEETING

1. The Textiles Monitoring Body held its eighty-fifth meeting on 12 December 2001.
2. Mr. Nayyar appointed Mr. Li Enheng (People's Republic of China) as his alternate.
3. Present at this meeting were the following members and alternates: Messrs. Fox-Drummond Gough/Ugarriza/Rosas; Farahat; Lee; Mrs. Mangeac/Mr. Karapinar; Messrs. Moroz; Nayyar/Li; Richards; Tagliani; Yamagami.
4. The TMB adopted the report of its eighty-fourth meeting (G/TMB/R/83).

Notification under Articles 2.8(b) and 2.11 of the ATC

5. The TMB reviewed under Article 2.21 the notification made, pursuant to Articles 2.8(b) and 2.11, by Thailand (G/TMB/N/412/Rev.1). The TMB noted that, in accordance with Article 2.8(b), the volume of the products integrated had been reported to amount to 18.59 per cent of the volume of 1990 imports of the products falling under the coverage of the Agreement, and that the products integrated included products from each of the four groups: tops and yarns, fabrics, made-up textile products and clothing. The TMB noted, however, that the notification, as revised, contained two HS lines which did not appear to fall under the coverage of the ATC, and that three other HS lines had already been integrated by Thailand during the first stage. The TMB also noted that the integration programme contained four HS lines falling under an "ex HS line" in the Annex to the ATC, and that with respect to two of these HS lines Thailand had reaffirmed that the levels of 1990 imports of those two products corresponded to the respective product description contained in the Annex to the ATC. The TMB observed in this regard that if the imports of the non-ATC products were discounted, as well as those of the two "ex HS lines" for which no specific explanation had been available as to the correspondence with the ATC Annex, and if the volume of imports of those products already integrated in Stage 1 were not counted in the volume of imports of the products to be integrated, that volume would still amount to not less than 18 per cent of the total volume of Thailand's 1990 imports of the products in the Annex, as envisaged in Article 2.8(b).

United States: Abolishment of Visa Requirements on Products to be Integrated on 1 January 2002

6. In reply to the request for information made by the TMB¹, the United States, in a communication dated 11 December 2001, informed the TMB that "the visa requirement for products integrated in the third stage has been eliminated" (G/TMB/N/418).

¹ See G/TMB/R/83, paragraphs 10 and 11.

Implementation of the Provisions of Article 2.18 of the ATC Related to Small Suppliers During the Third Stage of the Integration Process

7. Based on an earlier communication by Canada² and replies received from the European Community (G/TMB/N/417) and the United States (G/TMB/N/418) to the TMB's request for information³, the TMB noted that the three Members concerned would increase the annual growth rates applied during Stage 2 for WTO Members falling under the provisions of Article 2.18 (small suppliers) in their respective regimes by 27 per cent as from 1 January 2002.

Status of implementation of the TMB recommendations

8. Bearing in mind that Article 8.9 of the ATC states that “ [t]he Members shall endeavour to accept in full the recommendations of the TMB, which shall exercise proper surveillance of the implementation of such recommendations”, and in view of the fact that the TMB had received no information from Poland as to the implementation of the recommendation the Body had made at its eighty-fourth meeting (G/TMB/R/83, paragraph 41), the TMB decided to request such information from Poland.

Observations with Respect to Late Notifications

9. With respect to notifications addressed to the TMB after the relevant deadlines, the TMB reiterated that its taking note of late notifications was without prejudice to the legal status of such notifications.

² See G/TMB/R/83, paragraph 13.

³ See G/TMB/R/83, paragraphs 14 and 15.