

WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

WT/REG153/N/1

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Committee on Regional Trade Agreements

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EC-LEBANON INTERIM AGREEMENT

Notification to the WTO under Article XXIV:7(a) of the GATT 1994

The following communication, dated 26 May 2003, has been received from the Permanent Delegation of the European Commission with the request that it be circulated to the WTO Members.

The delegations of the European Communities and Lebanon have the honour to inform the Members of the WTO that the Interim Agreement on Trade and Trade-related Matters between the European Community and Lebanon entered into force on 1 March 2003.¹ The Agreement contains provisions relating to trade in goods that are of relevance to the Members of the WTO.

The Interim Agreement on Trade and Trade-related Matters establishes a free trade area between the European Communities and Lebanon in the sense of Article XXIV of the GATT 1994. This free trade area will be established over a maximum period of twelve years, commencing on 1 March 2003, at the end of which duties and other restrictive regulations of commerce will have been eliminated on substantially all the trade between the parties.

¹ The text of the Interim Agreement is circulated in document WT/REG153/1. It is also published in the Official Journal of the European Communities L/262 of 30 September 2002 (which can be accessed on the internet at <http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/en/index.html>).