

WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

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Committee on Regional Trade Agreements Twenty-Sixth Session

EXAMINATION OF THE FREE TRADE AGREEMENT BETWEEN CROATIA AND SLOVENIA

Note on the Meeting of 6 July 2000

Chairperson: Ms. Silvia Ávila Seifert (Bolivia)

1. The meeting was convened in document WTO/AIR/1339.
2. Under Agenda Item D.III of its Twenty-Sixth Session, the Committee on Regional Trade Agreements took up the examination of the Free Trade Agreement between Croatia and Slovenia.
3. The Chairperson noted that this was the fourth round of examination of the Agreement. The first and second rounds of examination were held in July and September 1999, respectively. The third round of examination had taken place in March 2000 under her chairmanship. The corresponding minutes of those meetings had been distributed as documents WT/REG55/M/1-2-3. The latest set of written questions submitted to the Parties, together with their responses, had been circulated recently as document WT/REG55/4/Add. 1. Given the advanced stage of the factual examination process, the Chairperson invited delegations wishing to make comments or ask questions on specific matters to identify the relevant section of the Standard Format for easier reference.
4. Thanking the Parties for the replies provided on 8 November 1999 and 31 May 2000 to his delegation's written questions, the representative of Australia said that he had no further questions.
5. The representative of the United States thanked the Parties for the additional statistical information provided. His delegation was concerned that the Agreement provided for non-zero, better than MFN, treatment on certain products both during the transition period and at full implementation, which was not provided for in GATT Article XXIV. Referring to a reply given in Section II.3 of document WT/REG55/4/Add.1, he asked for the names of the countries with which Slovenia had concluded agreements. The representative of Slovenia replied that those countries were the 15 members of the European Communities; 4 members of EFTA; 6 members of CEFTA; Macedonia; Croatia; Estonia; Latvia; Lithuania; and Israel.
6. The Chairperson said that the Committee had exhausted the factual enquiry. She proposed that the Secretariat begin drafting the report for the examination.
7. The Committee took note of the comments made.