

WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

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Negotiating Group on Trade Facilitation

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COMMUNICATION FROM CANADA, THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES, AND NEW ZEALAND

The following communication, dated 4 April 2006, from the Delegations of Canada, the European Communities, and New Zealand, is being circulated in advance of the Negotiating Group meeting of 5-7 April.

BORDER AGENCY COORDINATION

I. COMMON ELEMENTS¹

- Cooperation and coordination between authorities and agencies involved in border (and other import and export) controls to facilitate trade.
- Promotion of compatible import and export data and documentation requirements of authorities and agencies involved in border controls.
- In each Member, convergence of controls at a "one-stop shop" with a view to establishing, to as great an extent as possible, a single location for one-time documentary or physical verification of consignments (where required) by all concerned authorities and agencies.
- In terms of cross-border coordination, cooperation may include, among others, the alignment of working hours and the development of common customs facilities.

II. SPECIAL AND DIFFERENTIAL TREATMENT

- Progressive implementation/transitional periods.

III. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND CAPACITY BUILDING

- Technical assistance based on needs assessment e.g., experience sharing among Members on border agency coordination including with respect to its design and implementation as well as other ways to improve coordination and reduce duplication among border agencies.

¹ Based on papers TN/TF/W/20 (Canada), TN/TF/W/30 (Peru), TN/TF/W/46 (EC) and TN/TF/W/48 (Norway).