

WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

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Negotiating Group on Trade Facilitation

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COMMUNICATION FROM THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES, MONGOLIA, THE SEPARATE CUSTOMS TERRITORY OF TAIWAN, PENGHU, KINMEN AND MATSU, AND SWITZERLAND

Revision

The following communication, dated 9 July 2008, is being circulated at the request of the Delegations of the European Communities, Mongolia, the Separate Customs Territory of Taiwan, Penghu, Kinmen and Matsu, and Switzerland.

CUSTOMS BROKERS

1. The following textual proposal is submitted by the European Communities and Switzerland for consideration by the Negotiating Group. It is closely based on the proposals on customs brokers made in the joint communication TN/TF/W/110 of 6 June 2006 and takes account of the discussion and other submissions on this issue in the Negotiating Group.

Textual proposal

Customs brokers

1. Where a Member requires the compulsory use of customs brokers, this Member shall ensure that licensing requirements and procedures are transparent and proportionate.
2. All qualified economic operators, subject to the licensing requirements in paragraph 1, shall be eligible for a license. In the case of legal persons, they may operate with their own in-house customs brokers, licensed by the relevant authority for this purpose in accordance with paragraph 1 above.
3. The number of licenses shall be unlimited.
4. From the entry into force of this commitment, Members not requiring the compulsory use of customs brokers shall not introduce or apply any new requirements to use customs brokers.