

COMMUNICATION FROM KOREA, SINGAPORE AND THAILAND

Revision

The following communication, dated 7 March 2008, is being circulated at the request of the Delegations of Korea, Singapore and Thailand.

PROPOSAL ON SINGLE WINDOW

1. In a joint communication (TN/TF/W/100), Chile, the European Communities, Japan, Korea, Mongolia, and Singapore submitted a proposal on "introduction of single window/one-time submission", which comprised the summary of common elements of the prior proposals and the elements that needed further discussions.
2. The following draft text is submitted by Korea, Singapore, Thailand, for consideration by the Negotiating Group, without prejudice to further discussions and submissions regarding this or any other proposals.

Textual proposal

- Members shall maintain or establish the "single window"¹, where documentation and/or data requirements for exportation, importation and transit are submitted one time only. The single window shall undertake onward distribution of the aforementioned documentation and/or data requirements to all the relevant authorities or agencies which require them. The authorities or agencies that receive the documentation and/or data requirements through the single window shall notify the results of their examinations to the applicants through the single window in a timely manner.
- In cases where documentation and/or data requirements have already been received by the single window, the same documentation and/or data requirements shall not be requested by other authorities or agencies except in urgent circumstances and other limited exceptions which are made public.
- Members shall notify other Members through the WTO Secretariat of the details of operation of the single window, which may include the participating authorities and agencies, the

¹ A single window is defined as a facility that allows parties involved in trade and transport to lodge standardized documentation and /or data with a single entry point to fulfil all import, export, and transit-related regulatory requirements (UN/CEFACT Recommendation No.33).

functions of the single window, the contact point for the single window as well as the procedure of its usage.²

- Members are encouraged to use, to the extent possible, information technology to support the single window.
- Members shall, where practicable, use relevant international standards and practices such as UN/CEFACT Recommendation No. 33 as a basis for the single window schemes.
- With regard to the scope of participating authorities or agencies and documentation and/or data requirements, Members are allowed to implement the single window in a progressive manner taking into account each Member's implementation capacity.

Special and Differential Treatment, Technical Assistance and Capacity Building

- With regard to the proposal on S&D and TA&CB, horizontal provisions need to be set out; such provisions will include temporary exemptions, extended implementation period and technical assistance and capacity building for developing and the least developed countries in accordance with the provisions on special and different treatment.

² Note to the reader: This article may be dropped from the proposed text should it be adequately covered by the Article on publication and availability of information.