

WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

TN/TF/W/139
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Negotiating Group on Trade Facilitation

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COMMUNICATION FROM KOREA

The following communication, dated 20 July 2006, from the Delegation of Korea, is being circulated in advance of the Negotiating Group meeting of 24-26 July.

PROPOSAL ON RELEASE TIME OF GOODS

1. In a joint communication (TN/TF/W/101), the European Communities, Japan, Korea, Mongolia, and the Separate Customs Territory of Taiwan, Penghu, Kinmen and Matsu, submitted a proposal on “release time of goods,” 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 for consideration by the Negotiating Group, without prejudice to further discussions and submissions regarding this or any other proposal.
3. 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 least developed countries in accordance with the provisions on special and different treatment.

Textual proposal

- Members shall measure and publish their own average time for the release of goods in a consistent manner on a periodic basis, based on the WCO Time Release Study.
 - Members shall endeavour to continuously reduce such average release time.
 - In case of a significant delay in the release of goods, Members shall provide the traders who have made written requests with the reasons for the delay except when such notification would impede the pursuance of legitimate policy objectives.
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