

WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

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Working Party on the
Accession of Chinese Taipei

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ACCESSION OF CHINESE TAIPEI

Additional Questions and Replies Concerning Domestic Support and Export Subsidies

Addendum

The following additional communication has been received from the Representation of the Separate Customs Territory of Taiwan, Penghu, Kinmen and Matsu with the request that it be circulated to members of the Working Party.

Question

According to doc WT/ACC/4, domestic support measures should be quantified for a base period which means "normally for each of the last three years". The Agreement on Agriculture (AA) stipulates that the permitted support during any year of the implementation period shall be specified in Part IV of a Member's Schedule. The implementation period means the six-year period commencing in the year 1995.

In document TPKM/4 Chinese Taipei has tried to reconcile these provisions by quantifying the support for the base period 1990, 1991 and has completed a commitment table indicating the annual ceilings for support subject to reduction commitments for the years 1995 to 2000.

Chinese Taipei has no WTO commitments to respect a support ceiling for the period prior to accession to WTO and the period used for quantification of support is not "the last three years". By definition "the last three years" would be a moving period until a date of accession may be foreseen.

Chinese Taipei has indicated their willingness to submit updated figures on domestic support. Would Chinese Taipei also be prepared to establish a fix date prior to formal membership of WTO for implementing any reduction commitments on domestic support, in order to allow the technical talks on support levels to be concluded? Taking into account the interaction between domestic support and market access concession, would Chinese Taipei also be ready to implement agreed market access concessions on a MFN basis (most-favoured-nation treatment) from the same date?

Answer:

The base period 1990-1992 is not only for the AMS, but we have also used this for the market access negotiations. Although Chinese Taipei is willing to submit updated figures on domestic support to facilitate the understanding of the changes this should not imply that Chinese Taipei is willing or is required to implement any WTO commitments prior to accession.
