

WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

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Negotiating Group on Trade Facilitation

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

The following communication, dated 4 April 2006, from the Delegations of the European Communities, the Separate Customs Territory of Taiwan, Penghu, Kinmen and Matsu, and Switzerland, is being circulated in advance of the Negotiating Group meeting of 5-7 April.

PROPOSALS ON CUSTOMS BROKERS

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The following proposals on customs brokers have been prepared for consideration by Members. The proposals are based on discussions in the Trade Facilitation Negotiating Group and the previous proposals as compiled in document TN/TF/W/43/Rev. 5.

A. SPECIAL AND DIFFERENTIAL TREATMENT, TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND CAPACITY BUILDING

2. The main costs of eliminating the mandatory use of customs brokers is likely to be in terms of amending relevant national rules. A similar logic holds for improving the licensing arrangements for customs brokers. There may be a need for transition periods, notably to allow for the amendment of relevant rules.

B. SPECIFIC PROPOSALS

- Developed-country Members shall eliminate any requirements for the mandatory use of customs brokers from the entry into force of this commitment.
 - Developing-country and least-developed country Members shall eliminate any requirements for the mandatory use of customs brokers not later than [X] years from the entry into force of this commitment.
 - No new requirements for the mandatory use of customs brokers shall be introduced or applied during the transition periods.
 - Members shall apply transparent, non-discriminatory and proportionate rules if and when licensing customs brokers.
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