

# WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

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Negotiating Group on Trade Facilitation

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## COMMUNICATION FROM THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES, JAPAN, KOREA, MONGOLIA, NEW ZEALAND, PAKISTAN, THE SEPARATE CUSTOMS TERRITORY OF TAIWAN, PENGHU, KINMEN AND MATSU, AND SWITZERLAND

The following communication, dated 9 May 2006, is being circulated at the request of the Delegations of the European Communities, Japan, Korea, Mongolia, New Zealand, Pakistan, the Separate Customs Territory of Taiwan, Penghu, Kinmen and Matsu, and Switzerland.

### PROPOSALS ON PRE-ARRIVAL PROCESSING

1. This submission is to present the key elements on the introduction of pre-arrival processing which are summarized from existing proposals by Members.<sup>1</sup> Also identified are the elements that need further discussions among Members for greater clarification and specification.

#### I. BASIC CONCEPT

- Pre-arrival processing is a function allowing traders to submit import documentation and other required information before the arrival of goods so that customs and other relevant border agencies can conduct documentary examination in advance. In cases where it is decided that no further examination is required, goods may be cleared immediately upon arrival.
- Pre-arrival processing further expedites the release of goods through documentary examination prior to their arrivals, while reserving the right of the authorities to conduct further examinations where necessary, and maintaining appropriate border control with the use of the risk management concept.

#### II. PROPOSALS

- Introduce procedures for accepting and examining documents prior to the arrival of goods.
- Draw on relevant international standards and practices as a basis for pre-arrival processing except when inappropriate or ineffective for the legitimate objectives pursued.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Chinese Taipei (TN/TF/W/10), Japan, Mongolia, Peru and Chinese Taipei (TN/TF/W/17), Korea (TN/TF/W/18), Peru (TN/TF/W/30), Turkey (TN/TF/W/45), EC (TN/TF/W/46), Chile (TN/TF/W/70). Pre arrival processing is also referred to in national experience papers submitted by Japan (TN/TF/W/53) and Egypt (TN/TF/W/69).

<sup>2</sup> International standard and practice include, Standard 3.25 of the Revised Kyoto Convention, WCO Guidelines for the immediate release of consignments by Customs.

### **III. ELEMENTS IDENTIFIED FOR FURTHER ADDRESSING**

- Special and differential treatment, including potential:
    - Progressive implementation of commitments.
  
  - Technical assistance and capacity building:
    - Assess situation, identify individual specific needs and priorities, training and addressing capacity constraints.
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