



HARMONIZED SYSTEM
COMMITTEE

-
25th Session
-

NC0236E1

O. Eng.

Brussels, 3 March 2000.

ADOPTION OF THE DRAFT AGENDA

(Item I on Agenda)

Reference documents :

NC0140E1 (HSC/24)
NC0141E1 (HSC/24)

I. BACKGROUND

1. On 24 January 2000, the Secretariat received a Note from the Canada Customs and Revenue Agency, which is excerpted below.

II. NOTE BY CANADA

2. In August 1999, the Canadian Administration submitted two notes to the Harmonized System Committee requesting the consideration of the classification of “rougher headed lumber” and “notched lumber”.
3. The Canadian Administration wishes to inform the Secretariat that the Government of Canada is presently pursuing arbitration under the Canada – United States Softwood Lumber Agreement and, therefore, respectfully requests the consideration of these two items (Items IX.1 and IX.2 on the Agenda for the Harmonized System Committee’s 25th Session) be withdrawn until further notice by Canada.

III. SECRETARIAT COMMENTS

4. The Secretariat has also been informed by the US Administration that it supports the Canadian request. In this connection, the Secretariat would draw the Committee’s attention to Article 10 of the HS Convention which states that :

“Any dispute between Contracting Parties concerning the interpretation or application of this Convention shall, so far as possible, be settled by negotiation between them.”

File Nos. 2780
2781

IV. CONCLUSION

5. The Committee is invited to take account of the Canadian Administration's Note and Secretariat's Comments when considering the adoption of this Agenda item and to decide what further action should be taken.
