

# WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

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General Council  
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## FOOD EXPORT BARRIERS AND HUMANITARIAN FOOD AID BY THE WFP (WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME)

### Communication from the European Union

The following communication, dated 17 November 2011, addressed to the Chairman of the General Council, is being circulated at the request of the Delegation of the European Union.

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The European Union has requested that the Communication concerning Food Export Barriers and Humanitarian Food Aid by the World Food Programme, transmitted by letter of 11 November 2011 to the Chairman of the General Council by the EU on behalf of cosponsors (attached), be placed on the agenda of the General Council meeting 30 November 2011. This is in view of consideration of the proposal as an element of political guidance at the 8<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Conference.

## ANNEX

### **FOOD EXPORT BARRIERS AND HUMANITARIAN FOOD AID BY THE WFP (WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME)**

A Communication from Australia, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, European Union,  
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Korea, Indonesia, Japan, Mexico, Norway,  
Singapore, Switzerland and Turkey to the Chair of the General Council

#### Introduction

Following a call from leaders at the G20 Summit in Seoul, G20 Ministers of Agriculture met in Paris on June 22nd and 23rd. They adopted an "Action Plan on Food Price Volatility and Agriculture."

In paragraph 40 of that Action Plan, under the section on International Policy Coordination, the Ministers of Agriculture expressed their commitment "to remove food export restrictions or extraordinary taxes for food purchased for non-commercial humanitarian purposes by the WFP (World Food Programme)" and agreed "not to impose them in the future". They decided "to seek support within the United Nations agencies and to recommend consideration of the adoption of a specific resolution by the WTO for the Ministerial Conference in December 2011".

#### The proposal to extend this commitment to the WTO Membership

Australia, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, the European Union, Korea, Indonesia, Japan, Mexico, Norway, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Switzerland and Turkey would like to propose an extension of the commitment under paragraph 40 of the Action Plan to the whole WTO Membership. The most effective approach will include all WTO Member suppliers of humanitarian food aid undertaking one common commitment to improve the availability of humanitarian food aid to the WFP.

Therefore, Australia, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, the European Union, Korea, Indonesia, Japan, Mexico, Norway, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Switzerland and Turkey submit a draft declaration for consideration and acceptance by all WTO Members as a paragraph in the final outcome of the Ministerial Conference in December 2011. The declaration would be the transcription of paragraph 40 of the Action Plan. This action represents one important step toward improved UN emergency food and humanitarian assistance.

**FOOD EXPORT BARRIERS AND HUMANITARIAN FOOD AID  
BY THE WFP (World Food Programme)**

We recognize that the first responsibility of each WTO Member is to ensure the food security of its own population. We also recognize that food export barriers restricting humanitarian aid penalize the most needy. We agree to remove food export restrictions or extraordinary taxes for food purchased for non-commercial humanitarian purposes by the World Food Programme (WFP) and we agree not to impose them in the future.

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