

Council for Trade in Services

PROCEDURES ON REPORTING ON REGIONAL TRADE AGREEMENTS¹

The following procedures are adopted as general guidelines with respect to reports/information on regional trade agreements submitted to the Council for Trade in Services:²

1. Such reports/information will also be available to the Committee on Regional Trade Agreements, as an input to the Committee's work under item 1(d) of its terms of reference.
2. Where appropriate, a description of developments in the agreements not contained in the information previously presented to the WTO³ and trade statistics covering the last representative period, for both trade among parties to the agreements and trade with third parties, should be provided.⁴
3. Where appropriate, parties to the agreements may make use, in presenting information, of the Standard Format for Information on Economic Integration Agreements on Services (document WT/REG/W/14). This would facilitate both the task of parties in reporting on their agreements and the task of WTO Members in considering the reports.

The above procedures will not in any way affect the legal rights and obligations of WTO Members.

¹ The Council for Trade in Services, at its meeting on 23 November 1998, took note of these procedures which had been recommended by the Committee on Regional Trade Agreements.

² Regional trade agreements (RTAs) reporting to the Council for Trade in Services are agreements liberalizing trade in services among the parties, notified under Article V:7(a) of the GATS. In addition to initial notification and provision of relevant data, as requested, parties to an RTA are required to "report periodically ... on its implementation" in the case of an agreement which is implemented on the basis of a time-frame (GATS Article V:7(b)).

³ In case particular sectors and/or modes of delivery were excluded from, or only partially covered by, the regional liberalization process, the relevant data should also be provided.

⁴ Statistics on the national product at the country level, broken down by the different services sectors or sub-sectors, would also be desirable.