

WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

RESTRICTED

S/C/M/23

20 January 1998

(98-0261)

Council for Trade in Services

REPORT OF THE MEETINGS HELD ON 18 AND 19 DECEMBER 1997

Note by the Secretariat

1. The Council for Trade in Services held a special meeting on 18 and 19 December 1997 to address matters relating to the entry into force of the Fourth Protocol to the General Agreement on Trade in Services. The agenda for the meeting is contained in WTO/AIR/748.
 2. The Chairman informed participants that the group of Members who had accepted the Fourth Protocol had held several meetings in accordance with paragraph 3 of the Protocol, which stipulates that if by 1 December 1997 the Protocol had not been accepted by all Members concerned, those Members which have accepted it by that date may decide, prior to 1 January 1998, on its entry into force. On 1 December 1997, out of 70 members concerned, 50 Members had accepted the Protocol, while 20 had not. Six of those Members who had not accepted had signed the Protocol subject to ratification, but this did not constitute binding acceptance. He also stated that the group of Members who had accepted the Fourth Protocol had agreed to request that the Council adopt a decision extending the deadline for acceptance of the Fourth Protocol until 31 July 1998. Therefore, the Chairman suggested that the Council adopt a Decision to that effect.
 3. The Council, so agreed.
 4. Regarding the entry into force of the Fourth Protocol, the group of Members who had accepted the Protocol was not able to reach a consensus. The Council agreed to meet in January 1998 as early as possible to review the matters relating to the acceptance and entry into force of the Fourth Protocol.
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