

**Committee on Regional Trade Agreements
Council for Trade in Services**

Original: English

**AGREEMENT BETWEEN NEW ZEALAND AND SINGAPORE
ON A CLOSER ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP**

Notification Pursuant to Article XXIV:7(a) of GATT 1994 and Article V:7(a) of the GATS

The following joint communication, dated 4 September 2001, has been received from the Permanent Missions of New Zealand and Singapore with the request that it be circulated to WTO Members.

The Permanent Mission of New Zealand to the United Nations office in Geneva and the Permanent Mission of Singapore to the United Nations office in Geneva have the honour to notify to the Members of the WTO that their respective authorities have signed the Agreement between New Zealand and Singapore on a Closer Economic Partnership (ANZSCEP).¹

The ANZSCEP has established a free-trade area within the meaning of Article XXIV of the GATT 1994. The ANZSCEP also provides for the liberalization of trade in services within the meaning of Article V of the GATS.

The ANZSCEP was concluded on 14 November 2000 and has entered into force on 1 January 2001. The duration of the Agreement is indefinite.

This joint notification is presented:

- (i) pursuant to part (a) of paragraph 7 of Article XXIV of GATT 1994 and the Understanding on the Interpretation of Article XXIV of GATT 1994; and
- (ii) In accordance with paragraph 7(a) of Article V of the GATS (Economic Integration).

In this regard we are pleased to advise that the agencies responsible for the implementation and enforcement of the measures are the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade of New Zealand and the Ministry of Trade and Industry of Singapore.

We hereby request that the Director-General informs the Members of the WTO of the ANZSCEP and that the agreement be made available to all Members of the WTO.

New Zealand and Singapore wish to express their willingness to contribute to the process of examination in accordance with the procedures agreed upon in the Committee on Regional Trade Agreements.

¹ The text of the Agreement is being distributed as WT/REG127/1. The full text of the ANZSCEP is available at <http://www.mti.gov.sg/public/economgmt/fta.cfm>.