

COMMUNICATION FROM THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC

Review of Article II Exemptions

Replies to Questions Posed on the Slovak Republic's MFN Exemptions in the
Course of the Review of MFN Exemptions

The attached communication has been received from the delegation of the Slovak Republic with the request that it be circulated to Members of the Council for Trade in Services.

A. ANSWER TO THE QUESTION POSED BY JAPAN NO. 309:

1. At a state level, the Slovak Republic has no co-production agreements. Since the year 1994 to date, the Slovak private film companies concluded co-production agreements with the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Germany, France and Switzerland. This list of the countries includes only co-production agreements concluded with financial assistance under supporting programme Eurimage within the Council of Europe, where the Slovak Republic participates. The respective list is not exhaustive because the co-production agreements of private film companies concluded out of the programme Eurimage are not a subject of notification obligations to the Ministry of Culture and there are no restrictions applied to conclusion of such co-production agreements in the Slovak Republic.

B. ANSWER TO THE QUESTION POSED BY JAPAN NO. 310:

2. The Slovak Republic has made no commitments in market access or national treatment in audiovisual services within its Schedule of Specific Commitments under the Uruguay Round. Setting up an exemption from Article II of the GATS was aimed at defining to the WTO Members, that there exist a concept to preserve and promote European cultural identity in the Slovak Republic in the audiovisual sector. By this, the Slovak Republic intended to reserve a right to follow up this concept. Conditions for this MFN exemption still prevail.