

# WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

RESTRICTED

**S/WPPS/W/14\***

6 May 1997

(97-2019)

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## Working Party on Professional Services

### GUIDELINES FOR MUTUAL RECOGNITION AGREEMENTS OR ARRANGEMENTS IN THE ACCOUNTANCY SECTOR

Revised draft of guidelines already issued as document S/WPPS/W/12.

At the informal meeting on 29 April 1997, the Chairman said he would circulate a draft of the recommendations which the Working Party on Professional Services might make to the Council for Trade in Services in respect of the guidelines. The text below contains a draft of these recommendations.

It is the intention of the chairman that the draft recommendation and guidelines will be discussed at the Working Party on Professional Services on 15 May, and if at all possible, agreed.

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#### Recommendation of the Working Party on Professional Services to the Council for Trade in Services

The *Decision on professional services* requires the Working Party on Professional Services *inter alia* to make recommendations for the elaboration of multilateral disciplines in the accountancy sector. A particular aspect of this mandate is that the Working Party shall establish guidelines for the recognition of accountancy qualifications.

The Working Party has agreed upon a set of guidelines for mutual recognition agreements or arrangements in the accountancy sector. These are contained in document S/WPPS/W/12. The guidelines are intended to offer practical guidance without precluding the use of alternative models. While drafted for the purposes of the accountancy sector, the guidelines may be of relevance for recognition agreements negotiated in other professional services sectors; however, this point has not been specifically addressed by the Working Party which has yet to decide on its approach to sectors other than accountancy.

The Working Party recommends that the Council for Trade in Services approves the guidelines, and that delegations be invited to bring them to the attention of the relevant domestic authorities and of their private sector.

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\*This document replaces S/WPPS/W/13, which was a previous draft, circulated in error, and which should be disregarded.