

WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

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ACCESSION OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF YUGOSLAVIA

Communication from the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia

Revision

The Director-General has received the following communication from the Prime Minister of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

I am writing to you, on behalf of the Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia with a request that the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia be admitted to the membership of the World Trade Organization. Deeply respectful of the role of the World Trade Organization in the process of the globalization of the world economy and international trade, and of its importance for the development and growth of the world economy, I wish to advise you of the position of the Yugoslav Government that an active participation of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia in the World Trade Organization is one of the priorities of its foreign economic policy.

On the basis of United Nations Security Council resolution 47/1 the Council of GATT adopted on 16 June 1993 a decision denying the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia the right to participate in the activities of the Council of GATT and other GATT committees and working bodies. Proceeding from the said decision, the Trade Negotiations Committee of the Uruguay Round subsequently decided to suspend the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia from the negotiations within the Uruguay Round in which it had participated from the beginning of the negotiations in 1986.

In view of the above-mentioned, due to the circumstances outside its control, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, regrettably, could not complete the negotiations within the Uruguay Round and regulate its membership in the World Trade Organization by 1 January 1995 as provided for by Article XI of the Agreement Establishing the World Trade Organization.

The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia has always called for a peaceful political solution of the Yugoslav crisis, firmly convinced that negotiations between equal parties are the only right way to achieve a lasting and just solution, stabilization and development for all. The principled and constructive role of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia has been reaffirmed by the Peace Agreement in Dayton and Paris. As a sign of recognition of such policy of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, on 1 October 1996 the United Nations Security Council adopted resolution 1074 on the lifting of all sanctions imposed against Yugoslavia.

In this context, the Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia submits the request to be admitted to the membership of the World Trade Organization in view of the provisions of Article XII:1 of the Agreement Establishing the World Trade Organization.

The Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia would welcome with pleasure any concrete step aimed at creating conditions for the realization of this proposal enabling a speedy reintegration of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia into the multilateral trade system regulated by the provisions of the World Trade Organization with full respect for the fact that, due to the activities outside its control, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia could not regulate its status within the World Trade Organization.