

# WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

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Committee on Regional Trade Agreements

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## FREE TRADE AGREEMENT BETWEEN ALBANIA AND BULGARIA

The following communication, dated 12 March 2004, is being circulated at the request of the Delegations of the Republic of Albania and the Republic of Bulgaria.

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### Notification from the Parties to the Agreement

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Albania to the United Nations at Geneva and the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Bulgaria to the World Trade Organization pursuant of Article XXIV:7(a) of GATT 1994 and the Understanding on the Interpretation of Article XXIV of GATT 1994, have the honour to inform the Members of the WTO that a Free Trade Agreement between the Republic of Albania and the Republic of Bulgaria was signed on 26 March 2003 and entered into force on 1 September 2003.<sup>1</sup>

The Free Trade Agreement contains provisions relating to trade in goods that are of relevance to the Members of the WTO.

The Agreement provides for the gradual establishment of a free-trade area between the Republic of Albania and the Republic of Bulgaria, in the sense of Article XXIV of the GATT 1994 and the Understanding on the Interpretation of Article XXIV of GATT 1994, over a transitional period, ending on 1 January 2007. At the end of the transitional period, all duties and other restrictive regulations of commerce will be eliminated on substantially all trade between the signatories.

Both Parties 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.

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<sup>1</sup> The text of the Agreement will be circulated in document WT/REG167/1.