

Committee on Regional Trade Agreements

Original: English

FREE TRADE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CZECH REPUBLIC
AND THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA

Communication from the Czech Republic

The following communication, dated 23 October 1997, has been received from the Permanent Mission of the Czech Republic with the request that it be distributed to WTO Members.

The delegation of the Czech Republic has the honour to transmit herewith, in accordance with Article XXIV:7(a) of the General Agreement, the text of a Free Trade Agreement between the Czech Republic and the Republic of Lithuania with the annexes and protocols which form an integral part thereof.¹

The Free Trade Agreement was signed on 14 October 1996 and entered into force on 1 July 1997 without having been applied provisionally.

The Agreement aims at the progressive establishment of a free-trade area between the Parties in the sense of Article XXIV of the General Agreement. The free-trade area will be established over a transitional period ending on 1 January 1998, when duties and other restrictive regulations of commerce will have been abolished on substantially all the trade between the signatories.

The Free Trade Agreement between the Czech Republic and the Republic of Lithuania also contains provisions dealing with, *inter alia*, state aid, competition, public procurement and intellectual property rights. An evolutionary clause offers the possibility of extending the Agreement to areas not covered by it.

¹The text of the Agreement is circulated in document WT/REG46/1.