

**Committee on Trade in Financial Services**

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON TRADE IN FINANCIAL SERVICES  
TO THE COUNCIL FOR TRADE IN SERVICES

I. Activities of the Committee in 1997

1. The Committee on Trade in Financial Services held seven formal meetings in the period from April to November 1997, including one meeting at senior level on 12 November, based on an indicative timetable agreed at its meeting on 10 April 1997. More meetings are expected to take place towards the deadline for the negotiations which is 12 December 1997. The activities of the Committee in 1997 focused on the resumed financial services negotiations with the aim of achieving a successful conclusion. There were also reports from Members of recent developments in financial services trade, and discussions on technical issues regarding the scheduling of commitments in financial services.

2. In discussion of the progress of the negotiations on financial services, Members confirmed their commitment to achieve a successful conclusion of the negotiations in the agreed time frame, in pursuit of the objectives and principles laid down in the Ministerial Declaration in Singapore of 13 December 1996. At each meeting views were exchanged on progress in bilateral meetings. A total of 32 offers representing 46 Members had been submitted as of 14 November 1997.

3. The Committee also discussed procedural issues regarding the modification and entry into force of the schedules on the basis of a note by the Secretariat (S/FIN/W/11 of 1 May 1997), and adopted the texts of a protocol and an accompanying decision. The Committee also recommended to the Council for Trade in Services that it adopt a related procedural decision.

4. Concerning the exchange of information on recent developments in financial services trade, many Members reported on their recent liberalization measures. These developments were welcomed, and Members were encouraged to report any related developments to the Committee for transparency purposes.

5. With regard to the consideration of technical issues in the scheduling of financial services commitments, the Committee undertook informal consultations on the distinction between Modes 1 and 2 in financial services. The Committee took note of the result of the consultations, as reported in an informal note by the Secretariat dated 3 July 1997 (job number 3706).