

DERESTRICTION OF DOCUMENTS

At its meeting on 18 July 1996, the General Council adopted a Decision on Procedures for the Circulation and Derestriction of WTO Documents (WT/L/160). Paragraph 1 of the Decision provides as follows: "Documents circulated after the date of entry into force of the Marrakesh Agreement Establishing the World Trade Organization (hereinafter referred to as "WTO Agreement") in any WTO document series shall be circulated as unrestricted with the exception of documents specified in the attached Appendix, which shall be circulated as restricted and subject to derestriction, or consideration thereof, as provided. Notwithstanding the exceptions specified in the Appendix, any document that contains only information that is publicly available or information that is required to be published under any agreement in Annex 1, 2 or 3 of the WTO Agreement shall be circulated on an unrestricted basis."

Accordingly, all currently restricted documents circulated since 1 January 1995 which would otherwise have been circulated as unrestricted in pursuance of the above procedures, are to be considered unrestricted as of 18 July. The Secretariat will shortly circulate a list of such documents in order to clarify their treatment. It will also subsequently circulate a list of other documents remaining restricted which are eligible for consideration for derestriction in accordance with the above procedures.