

**Council for Trade in Services
Special Session**

**STATEMENT BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL FOR
TRADE IN SERVICES TO THE GENERAL COUNCIL**

6 DECEMBER 2000

1. Since my last report to the General Council, the Council for Trade in Services in Special Session held two meetings on 1 December and 5-6 December 2000. The first meeting was devoted to the modalities for the treatment of autonomous liberalization pursuant to Article XIX of the GATS. The agenda, as set out in WTO/AIR/1450, was adopted. Submissions were tabled by Hong Kong, China, in document Job No. 7580, and by Korea, in document Job No. 7634 and Addendum 1. Members indicated that the issue was complex and required more discussion.
2. The second was a meeting of the Special Session of the Council held on 5 and 6 December 2000. The agenda, as set out in WTO/AIR/1455 and Corr.1 was adopted.
3. Under item A, on negotiating guidelines and procedures pursuant to Article XIX of the GATS, Members continued discussion of the papers which had been tabled at the previous Special Session, namely the Communication from Mauritius on behalf of the African Group (S/CSS/W/7) and the Secretariat note contained in document Job No. 5658. The Council also discussed additional proposals presented by a group of 23 developing countries in document S/CSS/W/13, by Korea in document S/CSS/W/14, and by Switzerland in document S/CSS/W/16.
4. The discussion on negotiating guidelines and procedures covered all the submissions made by more than 60 Members. The proposal made by the group of 23 developing countries was in the form of a draft text of the guidelines and was considered by some to be the most advanced proposal submitted so far on the subject. At the end of the discussion, Members agreed that the Secretariat should prepare a first draft of the negotiating guidelines and procedures, on the basis of all written and oral inputs received, well in advance of the next Special Session meeting in March 2001.
5. Under issues relating to the negotiations under Article XIX of the GATS, Members reverted to proposals tabled at the previous meeting, as well as three new submissions, by India on the liberalization of movement of natural persons under the GATS, by the EC on an overall approach to the negotiations, and by Australia on the liberalization of telecommunication services. There was also a paper prepared by the Secretariat on the consolidation of schedules of concessions under the GATT at the end of previous rounds of negotiations.
6. Under the assessment of trade in services, the Council received a joint submission by Slovenia, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Poland and the Slovak Republic, on the consequences of services liberalization in certain transition economies. It also considered a paper by the Secretariat updating a previous paper on services statistics (S/C/W/27/Add.1). Under the agenda item relating to tourism, communications were submitted by the Dominican Republic, El Salvador and Honduras and Panama. These can be found in documents S/CSS/W/9 and 19.

7. With regard to future meetings, the Special Session took note of a provisional schedule of meetings for the year 2001. Subject to confirmation, meetings will be held in the periods: 19-30 March; 9-18 May; 9-17 July; 1-9 and 12 October, and 26 November - 7 December. In addition, it was agreed that a day and a half symposium on tourism services will be held on 27 and 28 February 2001.
