

## REPORT OF THE WORKING PARTY ON DOMESTIC REGULATION TO THE COUNCIL FOR TRADE IN SERVICES (2002)

1. Since its last annual report to the Council for Trade in Services, the Working Party on Domestic Regulation (WPDR) held five formal meetings and two informal meetings. Minutes of the formal meetings are found in WTO documents S/WPDR/M/14 to M/18. Informal papers have been submitted to the Working Party. Informal papers were submitted by the Chairperson,<sup>1</sup> Members<sup>2</sup> and the Secretariat.<sup>3</sup>

### I. DEVELOPMENT OF REGULATORY DISCIPLINES UNDER GATS ARTICLE VI:4

2. With respect to the development of regulatory disciplines on domestic regulation, discussions of the Working Party in late 2001 and early 2002 continued to focus on the elements identified by Members in the revised *Checklist of Issues for WPDR* (JOB(01)/92 dated 19 June 2001). At the formal meeting on 12 March, Members agreed that the *Summary of Discussions on the Checklist of Issues for WPDR* and the *Checklist* itself should be merged into one document. The most recent version of the *Summary* was circulated as JOB(02)/3/Rev.2, dated 4 October 2002.

3. At the formal meeting on 16 July, 2002, the OECD gave a brief presentation, on an informal basis, regarding the meeting of services experts that was held in Paris in March 2002.

### II. ORGANIZATION OF FUTURE WORK

4. Members discussed the organization of future work at an informal Working Party meeting (on Friday 1 March) and during the formal meeting on 12 March, based on two Chairperson's Notes (JOB(02)/4, dated 30 January 2002, and JOB(02)/22, dated 7 March). They were generally of the view that it was time to focus more on the regulatory barriers and issues that service suppliers actually faced. This involved engaging in a review of the measures contained in the informal Secretariat paper *Examples of Measures to be Addressed by Disciplines under GATS Article VI:4* (latest version is JOB(02)/20/Rev.2, dated 18 October 2002).

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<sup>1</sup> JOB(01)/159, dated 22.11.01; JOB(02)/4, dated 30.01.02; JOB(02)/22, dated 07.03.02; JOB(02)/46, dated 29.05.02; JOB(02)/80, dated 12.07.02; JOB(02)/81, dated 12.07.02; JOB(02)/80/Rev.1, dated 13.08.02; and JOB(02)/147, dated 17.10.02.

<sup>2</sup> JOB(02)/48, dated 31.05.02 (Communication from Thailand); JOB(02)/50, dated 03.06.02 (Communication from Hong Kong, China); JOB(02)/150, dated 22.10.02 (Communication from Japan); JOB(02)/146, dated 16.10.02 (Communication from Australia); and JOB(02)/151, dated 21.10.02 (Communication from Australia).

<sup>3</sup> JOB(01)/162, dated 27.11.01; JOB(02)/3, dated 29.01.02; JOB(02)/20, dated 07.03.02; JOB(02)/3/Rev.1, dated 12.04.02; JOB(02)/20/Rev.1, dated 12.07.02; JOB(02)/3/Rev.2, dated 04.10.02; JOB(02)/139, dated 4.10.02; JOB(02)/139/Rev.1, dated 17.10.02; JOB(02)/20/Rev.2, dated 18.10.02; and JOB(02)/139/Rev.2, dated 25.10.02.

### **III. DEVELOPMENT OF DISCIPLINES FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES**

5. Regarding the development of disciplines for professional services, the Working Party held discussions on the informal Secretariat paper *Synthesis of Results to Date of the Domestic Consultations in Professional Services* (JOB(01)/162, dated 27 November 2001). At the formal meeting on 22 October 2002, the WPDR agreed on Secretariat consultations with international professional services organizations, as selected by Members, concerning the potential suitability of the *Disciplines on Domestic Regulation in the Accountancy Sector* (S/L/64, dated 17 December 1998) for other professions.

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