

**ENLARGEMENT OF THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Notification from the European Communities

The following communication, dated 26 April 2004, is being circulated at the request of the Delegation of the European Communities.

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The European Communities notify to the World Trade Organization and its Members the decisions to enter into a customs union, resulting from the enlargement of the European Union by the accession of the Czech Republic, the Republic of Estonia, the Republic of Cyprus, the Republic of Latvia, the Republic of Lithuania, the Republic of Hungary, the Republic of Malta, the Republic of Poland, the Republic of Slovenia and the Slovak Republic, pursuant to Article XXIV:7(a) of GATT 1994 and the Understanding on the Interpretation of Article XXIV of GATT 1994, paragraph 2.

Further to the notification by the European Communities of 20 January 2004 and the decision of 14 April 2003 of the Council of the European Union on the admission to the European Union of the Czech Republic, the Republic of Estonia, the Republic of Cyprus, the Republic of Latvia, the Republic of Lithuania, the Republic of Hungary, the Republic of Malta, the Republic of Poland, the Republic of Slovenia and the Slovak Republic and pending the finalisation of ratification procedures, the European Communities have, within the framework of procedures laid down in Article XXIV of GATT 1994, and in particular paragraphs 5 and 7(a) thereof, submitted the data required by the Understanding on the Interpretation of Article XXIV of GATT 1994, paragraph 2 in order to allow the WTO Secretariat to carry out the evaluation provided for by Article XXIV:5 of GATT 1994 of the general incidence of the duties and other regulations of commerce applicable before and after the formation of the customs union.

The Treaty of Accession is published in the Official Journal of the European Union L 236 of 23 September 2003.<sup>1</sup>

This accession is effective as from 1 May 2004.

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<sup>1</sup> A version subject to a legal disclaimer is published at:  
[http://europa.eu.int/comm/enlargement/negotiations/treaty\\_of\\_accession\\_2003/index.htm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/enlargement/negotiations/treaty_of_accession_2003/index.htm)