

WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

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Committee on Regional Trade Agreements

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FREE TRADE AGREEMENT BETWEEN BULGARIA AND THE FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA

Notification from Bulgaria

The following communication, dated 21 January 2000, has been received from the Permanent Mission of Bulgaria with the request that it be circulated to WTO Members.

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Bulgaria to the World Trade Organization, pursuant of Article XXIV:7(a) of GATT 1994 and the Understanding on the Interpretation of Article XXIV of GATT 1994, wish to inform the Members of the WTO that a Free Trade Agreement between the Republic of Bulgaria and the Republic of Macedonia was signed on 13 October 1999 and entered into force on 1 January 2000.¹

The Agreement contains provisions relating to trade in goods that are of relevance to the Members of the World Trade Organization.

The Agreement provides for the gradual establishment of a free-trade area between the Republic of Bulgaria and the Republic of Macedonia, in the sense of Article XXIV of the GATT 1994 and the Understanding on the Interpretation of Article XXIV of GATT 1994, over a transitional period lasting a maximum of five years. At the end of the transitional period, all duties and other restrictive regulations of commerce will have been eliminated on substantially all the trade between the signatories.

¹ The text of the Agreement will be circulated in document WT/REG90/1.