

WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

RESTRICTED

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ACCESSION OF BELARUS

Communication from Belarus

The following communication, dated 30 January 1995, has been received from the Permanent Mission of Belarus.

The Government of the Republic of Belarus hereby expresses its intention to accede to the World Trade Organization as its full-fledged member in accordance with Article XII of the Agreement establishing the World Trade Organization.

Accordingly, the Government of the Republic of Belarus would like the existing Working Party on the accession of the Republic of Belarus to the World Trade Organization to be empowered to examine the relevant areas which need to be considered in connection with Belarus's accession to the World Trade Organization.

Having regard to the decision adopted by the General Council on 31 January 1995, the Working Party on the Accession of Belarus to the GATT 1947 has been transformed into a WTO Accession Working Party and the Government of Belarus will have observer status in the General Council and its subsidiary bodies. The name of the Chairman and the terms of reference of the Working Party are reproduced on the following page.

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WORKING PARTY ON THE ACCESSION OF BELARUS

Chairman: H.E. Mr. C. Manhusen (Sweden)

Membership:

The membership is open to all Members indicating their wish to serve on the Working Party.

Terms of Reference:

To examine the application of the Government of Belarus to accede to the World Trade Organization under Article XII, and to submit to the General Council recommendations which may include a draft Protocol of Accession.