

# WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

RESTRICTED

**WT/REG18/N/1**

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## EUROPE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES AND THE CZECH REPUBLIC

### Notification from the Parties to the Agreement

The following communication, dated 6 April 1996, has been received from the Permanent Delegation of the Commission of the European Communities and the Permanent Mission of the Czech Republic with the request that it be distributed to WTO Members.

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The Delegations of the European Communities and the Czech Republic have the honour to inform Members of the WTO that, following the dissolution of the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic, the Europe Agreement between the Community and the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic was replaced by Agreements with each of the successor states. The Europe Agreement between the European Communities and the Czech Republic was signed on 4 October 1993 and came into force on 1 February 1995.<sup>1</sup>

The basic provisions of the Europe Agreement relating to trade in goods are unchanged from the earlier Agreement, although some technical adjustments have been included reflecting the consequences of the dissolution of the Federation.

The objective of the Europe Agreement is to gradually establish a free trade area between the European Communities and the Czech Republic in the sense of Article XXIV of the GATT 1994. This free trade area will be established over a maximum period of ten 10 years, at the end of which duties and other restrictive regulations of commerce will have been eliminated on substantially all trade between the signatories.

The Members of the WTO will recall that the Trade in Goods aspect of the Europe Agreement between the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic (as contained in the Interim Agreement) was notified under Article XXIV of the GATT on 3 April 1992 (ref. L/6992).

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<sup>1</sup>The text of the Agreement is circulated in document WT/REG18/6.