

Trade in Services

DECISION ON DOMESTIC REGULATION

Adopted by the Council for Trade in Services on 26 April 1999

The Council for Trade in Services,

Acting pursuant to Article IV of the Agreement establishing the World Trade Organization and Article XXIV of the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS),

Having regard to paragraph 4 of Article VI of the GATS,

Having regard to the Decision on Professional Services adopted by the Council on 1 March 1995 (S/L/3),

Having regard to the Decision on Disciplines relating to the Accountancy Sector adopted by the Council on 14 December 1998 (S/L/63),

Recognising the importance of domestic regulation in pursuing national policy objectives,

Desiring to ensure that measures relating to domestic regulation do not constitute unnecessary barriers to trade in services,

Decides as follows,

1. A Working Party on Domestic Regulation shall be established and the Working Party on Professional Services shall cease to exist.
 2. In accordance with paragraph 4 of Article VI of the GATS, the Working Party shall develop any necessary disciplines to ensure that measures relating to licensing requirements and procedures, technical standards and qualification requirements and procedures do not constitute unnecessary barriers to trade in services. This shall also encompass the tasks assigned to the Working Party on Professional Services, including the development of general disciplines for professional services as required by paragraph 2 of the Decision on Disciplines Relating to the Accountancy Sector (S/L/63).
 3. In fulfilling its tasks the Working Party shall develop generally applicable disciplines and may develop disciplines as appropriate for individual sectors or groups thereof.
 4. The Working Party shall report to the Council with recommendations no later than the conclusion of the forthcoming round of services negotiations.
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