

WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

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**Working Party on the Accession of the
Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia**

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ACCESSION OF THE FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA

Communication from the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

Plan of Legislation Activities

Revision

The Government of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia has submitted the following revised Plan of Legislation Activities.

Subject	Legislation	Agency In Charge	Status
Economic, monetary and fiscal policy	<p>New Law on Foreign Exchange Operations</p> <p>Liberalization of capital transactions, simplification of the foreign investments registration procedure, and unimpeded transfer of capital.</p>	Ministry of Finance National Bank of RM	<p>Enacted by the Parliament in April 2001 and subsequently amended in June 2001.</p> <p>Original text and amendments published in Official Gazette 34/01 and 49/01.</p> <p>English translation submitted to the Working Party.</p>
	<p>New Law on Payment Transactions</p> <p>Reforms in the domestic payments system to permit commercial banks to conduct direct transfers of funds for all legal entities (at the present time such transfers must be made through a specialized Payment Operations Office).</p>	Ministry of Finance	<p>Enacted by the Parliament in April 2001 and subsequently amended in June 2001.</p> <p>Original text and amendments published in Official Gazette 32/01 and 50/01.</p>
	<p>Amendments Law on Excise Taxes (Official Gazette 32/01, 50/01)</p> <p>Action plan for equalization of excise taxes for domestic and imported tobacco products.</p>	Ministry of Finance	<p>Enacted in June 2002.</p> <p>Amendments published in Official Gazette 45/02.</p> <p>English translation submitted to the Secretariat on 6 September 2002.</p>
	<p>Amendments Law on Excise Taxes (Official Gazette 32/01, 50/01, 45/02)</p> <p>Equalization of excise taxes on wines made of grapes and wines made of other fruit.</p>	Ministry of Finance	<p>Amendment approved by the Government on 27 August 2002.</p> <p>Excerpt of the Government session Minutes submitted to the Secretariat on 6 September 2002.</p> <p>Amendment intended to be enacted by the Parliament prior to accession.</p>

Subject	Legislation	Agency In Charge	Status
Property ownership and leasing; contracts	New Law on Construction Land Long-term (99 years) land leases for the building construction by foreigners.	Ministry of Transport and Communications	Enacted by the Parliament in July 2001. Published in Official Gazette 53/01.
	New Law on Ownership Establishment of a contemporary system of ownership rights.	Ministry of Justice	Enacted by the Parliament in February 2001. Published in Official Gazette 18/01.
	New Law on Obligations Establishment of a contemporary system of contracts.	Ministry of Justice	Enacted by the Parliament in February 2001. Published in Official Gazette 18/01.
Registration requirements	New Law on Trade Companies Simplification of registration procedures for business entities.	Ministry of Economy Ministry of Justice	Enacted by the Parliament in July 2002. Published in Official Gazette 58/02.
National tariff	Amendments Customs Tariff Law (Official Gazette 38/96, 45/97, 54/97, 61/97, 26/98, 15/01) Full harmonization. of the Macedonian customs tariff with the WCO customs tariff on a six-digit level.	Ministry of Finance	Enacted by the Parliament in December 2001. Published in Official Gazette 104/01.
Other duties and charges Customs valuation Rules of origin	Amendments Law on Customs (Official Gazette 21/98, 26/98, 63/98, 25/00) Article 8 of the amendments provides for the abolition of the 1% customs services fee starting 1 January 2002.	Ministry of Finance	Enacted by the Parliament in December 2000. Published in Official Gazette 109/00. English translation submitted to the Working Party.
	Amendments Law on Customs (Official Gazette 21/98, 26/98, 63/98, 25/00, 109/00, 31/01) Compliance with the Agreement on Implementation of Article VII of GATT 1994 and the Agreement on Rules of Origin.	Ministry of Finance	Enacted by the Parliament on 4 July 2002. Published in Official Gazette 55/02. English translation submitted to the Secretariat on 6 September 2002.

Subject	Legislation	Agency In Charge	Status
	<p>Amendments Law on Customs (Official Gazette 21/98, 26/98, 63/98, 25/00, 109/00, 31/01)</p> <p>Reform of tariff rate quota system (Article 24a).</p>	Ministry of Finance	<p>Enacted by the Parliament on 4 July 2002.</p> <p>Published in Official Gazette 55/02.</p> <p>English translation submitted to the Secretariat on 6 September 2002.</p>
	<p>Amendments Regulation on Customs Valuation (Official Gazette 17/00)</p> <p>Compliance with the Agreement on Implementation of Article VII of GATT 1994.</p>	Ministry of Finance	<p>Approved by the Government on 9 July 2002.</p> <p>Published in Official Gazette 60/02.</p> <p>English translation submitted to the Secretariat on 6 September 2002.</p>
	<p>New Regulation Governing the Amount of the Fees for Customs Services Rendered.</p>	Ministry of Finance	<p>Approved by the Government on 20 August 2002.</p> <p>Published in the Official Gazette 69/02.</p> <p>English translation submitted to the Secretariat on 6 September 2002.</p>
Import licensing procedures	<p>New Law on Foreign Trade</p> <p>Repeal of the existing Law on Foreign Trade.</p> <p>Abolition of the 0.1% export promotion charge.</p> <p>Regulate anti-dumping, safeguards and countervailing measures regimes in a WTO consistent manner.</p>	Ministry of Economy	<p>Enacted by the Parliament in June 2002.</p> <p>Published in Official Gazette 45/02.</p> <p>English translation submitted to the Secretariat on 6 September 2002.</p>

Subject	Legislation	Agency In Charge	Status
TBT Agreement	<p>New Law on Standardization</p> <p>This law lays down the objectives and principles for the Macedonian national standardization system, the status of the Macedonian national standards body, its responsibilities, membership and funding, and regulates the preparation,, adoption and application of Macedonian national standards.</p>	Ministry of Economy Bureau for Standardization and Metrology	<p>Enacted by the Parliament on 4 July 2002.</p> <p>Published in Official Gazette 54/02.</p> <p>English translation submitted to the Secretariat on 6 September 2002.</p>
	<p>New Law on Metrology</p> <p>Regulation of the metrological system of the Republic of Macedonia.</p>	Ministry of Economy Bureau for Standardization and Metrology	<p>Enacted by the Parliament on 4 July 2002.</p> <p>Published in the Official Gazette 55/02.</p> <p>English translation submitted to the Secretariat on 6 September 2002.</p>
	<p>New Law on Accreditation</p> <p>This law establishes a national accreditation service; determines its structure, powers and obligations and specific areas in which the accreditation procedure shall apply.</p>	Ministry of Economy Bureau for Standardization and Metrology	<p>Enacted by the Parliament on 4 July 2002.</p> <p>Published in the Official Gazette 54/02.</p> <p>English translation submitted to the Secretariat on 6 September 2002.</p>
	<p>New Law on Technical Requirements of Products and Conformity Assessment</p> <p>Technical requirements products should meet before placed on the market and procedures for conformity assessment of product</p>	Ministry of Economy Bureau for Standardization and Metrology	<p>Enacted by the Parliament on 4 July 2002.</p> <p>Published in the Official Gazette 55/02.</p> <p>English translation submitted to the Secretariat on 6 September 2002.</p>

Subject	Legislation	Agency In Charge	Status
SPS Agreement	New Law on Food Safety Complete harmonization of food safety legislation with the SPS Agreement (Codex Alimentarius standards)	Ministry of Health	Enacted by the Parliament on 4 July 2002. Published in the Official Gazette 54/02. English translation submitted to the Secretariat on 6 September 2002.
	Amendments Law on Veterinary Health (Official Gazette 28/98) International harmonization of existing legislation.	Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy	Being drafted. Intended to be enacted by the Parliament by December 2002.
	New Regulations for implementation of the Law on Veterinary Health	Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy	Being drafted. Intended to be completed by December 2002.
	New Law on Plant Protection Harmonization of plant protection legislation with IPPC and EU directives.	Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy	Intended to be enacted by the Parliament by December 2003.
	New Regulations for implementation of the Law on Plant Protection	Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy	Preparation of regulations will follow the enactment of the Law on Plant Protection.
	New Law on Ratification of the International Plant Protection Convention IPPC ratification	Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy	Intended to be enacted by the Parliament by December 2002.

Subject	Legislation	Agency In Charge	Status
Agreement on Agriculture	New Law on Support of Agriculture The aim of this law is to resolve critical issues in the agricultural sector of Macedonia and to alleviate the conditions of Macedonian agricultural producers.	Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy	Intended to be enacted by the Parliament by December 2002.
	New Law on Agricultural Fund This law will establish an agricultural fund and will introduce procedures for its appropriation sources and application.	Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy	Enacted by the Parliament in February 2002. Published in Official Gazette 11/02. English translation submitted to the Working Party (WT/ACC/807/24/Add.1).
	New Law on Agricultural Activity Definition of the agricultural activity, who and under which conditions can perform it, registration requirements.	Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy	Enacted by the Parliament in February 2002. Published in Official Gazette 11/02. English translation submitted to the Working Party (WT/ACC/807/24/Add.1).
State trading	New Law on Stock Reserves	Ministry of Economy Ministry of Finance	Draft in existence. Being approved by the Government.
Free economic zones	Amendments Law on Free Economic Zones Abolition of the export performance requirement.	Ministry of Economy	Enacted by the Parliament in January 2002. Published in Official Gazette 6/02. English translation submitted to the Working Party.

Subject	Legislation	Agency In Charge	Status
<p>Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights -TRIPS</p>	<p>Amendments Law on Copyrights and Related Rights (Official Gazette 47/96, 3/98)</p> <p>Extension of the period for retroactive protection of the rights of performers and phonogram producers to 50 years, in compliance with Article 14.5 of TRIPS. Further harmonization of the copyright legislation with international requirements.</p>	<p>Ministry of Culture</p>	<p>Approved by the Government in August 2002.</p> <p>Scheduled for enactment by the Parliament by 31 January 2003.</p> <p>English translation of the draft submitted to the Working Party.</p> <p>Interim Conclusion on TRIPS compliance passed by the Government on 20 August 2002. English translation submitted to the Secretariat on 6 September 2002.</p>
	<p>New Law on Industrial Property</p> <p>Modernization of the regimes for patents, trademarks, industrial designs and appellation of origin and their harmonization with international requirements.(Replaces the planned Law on Patents, Law on Trademarks, Law on Industrial Design and Law on Geographical Indications and Appellations of Origin).</p>	<p>Ministry of Economy Industrial Property Protection Office</p>	<p>Enacted by the Parliament in June 2002.</p> <p>Published in Official Gazette 47/02.</p> <p>English translation submitted to the Working Party (WT/ACC/807/24/Add.2).</p>

Subject	Legislation	Agency In Charge	Status
General Agreement on Trade in Services – GATS	New Law on Bar	Ministry of Justice	Enacted by the Parliament in July 2002. Published in Official Gazette 59/02.
	Amendments Law on Accounting (Official Gazette 42/93, 48/93, 6/95, 3/96, 32/98, 39/99) Introduction of modern concepts in accounting services.	Ministry of Finance	Enacted by the Parliament in August 2001. Published in Official Gazette 70/01.
	New Law on Postal Services The establishment of new criteria for postal and courier services. Access for foreign courier service suppliers (commercial presence)	Ministry of Transport and Communications	Enacted by the Parliament on 4 July 2002. Published in Official Gazette 55/02.
	Amendments Law on Telecommunications (Official Gazette 33/96, 17/98, 22/98,28/00) These amendments will introduce the necessary adjustments resulting from the privatization of the incumbent operator.	Ministry of Transport and Communications	Being drafted. No definite date for enactment.
	Amendments Law on Broadcasting (Official Gazette 20/97) Harmonization of existing legislation with EU requirements	Ministry of Transport and Communications	Planning stage. No definite date for enactment.
	New Law on Insurance Supervision	Ministry of Finance	Enacted by the Parliament in April 2002. Published in Official Gazette 27/02. English translation submitted to the Working Party (WT/ACC/807/24/Add.1).
	New Law on Health Protection New approach in regulating the health sector.	Ministry of Health	Being drafted. No definite date for enactment.

Subject	Legislation	Agency In Charge	Status
	Amendments Law on Road Transport (Official Gazette 63/95, 15/97, 29/98, 7/99, 34/00) Harmonization of the legislation with European countries.	Ministry of Transport and Communications	English translation of the draft submitted to the Working Party.
	Amendments Law on Spatial and Urban Planning Access for foreign suppliers of architectonic, engineering and integrated engineering services (commercial presence).	Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning	Enacted by the Parliament in June 2002. Published in Official Gazette 45/02.
	Amendments Law on the Environment Access for foreign suppliers of environmental services (commercial presence).	Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning	Enacted by the Parliament in June 2002. Published in Official Gazette 45/02.
	Amendments Law on Movement and Residence of Foreigners Extension of the temporary stay of intra-corporate transferees to three years with an additional extension of two years.	Ministry of Internal Affairs	Enacted by the Parliament in June 2002. Published in Official Gazette 45/02.
	Amendments Law on Communal Services Access for foreign suppliers of communal services (commercial presence).	Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning	Enacted by the Parliament in June 2002. Published in Official Gazette 45/02.