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ACCESSION OF ALBANIA

Additional Questions and Replies

Addendum

The following replies to questions raised by Members have been received from the Ministry of Economic Co-operation and Trade of the Republic of Albania, with the request that they be circulated to Working Party members.

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I. INTRODUCTION

Question 1.

We appreciate the information provided by Albania in WT/ACC/ALB/40, reproduced and updated in the chart in this section on the legislation it has developed to bring its trade regime into conformity with WTO provisions.

We suggest that the chart be taken out of the report, and that Albania update the information in the chart and have it issued as WT/ACC/ALB/40/Rev 1.

Reply:

Albania accepts that the chart on implementation of laws be taken out of the draft report and be issued as WT/ACC/ALB/40/Rev.1. Changes have been made to the document to provide additional specificity of the dates.

III. FRAMEWORK FOR MAKING AND ENFORCING POLICIES AFFECTING FOREIGN TRADE IN GOODS AND TRADE IN SERVICES

3. Division of Authority between Central and Sub-Central Form of Government

Question 2.

We still think that all material in this section dealing with the appeals process should be moved to Description of Juridical, Arbitral or Administrative Tribunals.

Reply:

Albania accepts that the section dealing with the appeals process should be move to the Description of Judicial, Arbitral or Administrative Tribunals.

IV. POLICIES AFFECTING TRADE IN GOODS

1. Import Regulation

(c) Tariff quotas, tariff exemptions

Question 3.

The commitment in this section, which members never sought, now reads as a version of the one in the "Trading right" section. We think this is duplicative and unnecessary. Unless other delegations can relate this commitment to the descriptive material in this section, we think that the commitment paragraph should be eliminated.

Reply:

The commitment paragraph which is repetitive can be eliminated if there are no other objections.

(d) Other duties and charges, specifying any charges for services rendered

Question 4.

We support inclusion of the statement on binding Article II:1(b) charges at "zero" and we would like to note that we expect to see either "zero" or nothing in that column of the schedule when it is circulated.

We can support the additional commitment, if other delegations agree. We have no objection to its removal, if another delegation so requests.

Reply:

Albania agrees to have either a "zero" or nothing in the column of the schedule relating to other duties and charges.

Albania does not have a strong preference for whether paragraph 52 is kept or removed from the draft report, and is willing to take the recommendations from the Working Party.

Question 5.

At the last Working Party meeting, members sought information from the Albanian delegation concerning the nature of the services rendered for consular fees. In particular, we asked that Albania confirm that none of the consular fees listed were required to engage in trade or charged for the authentication of import or export documents necessary for the importation of goods into Albania.

We remain concerned that these fees are actually charges on importation, rather than fees for a service actually necessary for trade, e.g., import processing, inspection, etc.

We need clarification in the report that none of the consular fees listed were for authentications or certification required for the importation of goods into Albania. If they are required for importation, we will need to know why the service is required an further discussion of how traders must submit their documents, the time limits and penalties attached to these requirements.

At the last meeting, members also requested that Albania state in the Working Party report that the fees listed in the tables were the only charges for services rendered currently applied to Albanian imports.

We remain interested in seeing this information in the draft Working Party report in this statement directly after the table on consular fees.

We support the revised commitment paragraph provided for in this section.

Reply:

The representative of Albania confirms that none of the consular fees listed were for authentications or certification required for the importation of goods into Albania.

Albania agrees that the confirmation should appear after the table on consular fees.

(e) Quantitative import restrictions, including prohibitions, quotas and licensing systems

Question 6.

In the table listing import restrictions, appended to WT/ACC/SPEC/ALB/6/Rev.1, we do not understand the reference to: "as well as to controlling the whole import process".

This is not a WTO justification. For clarity we would suggest that the references be limited to specific justifications under WTO.

We also think that the information in the third column should have simplified and included in the text of the Working Party report, but we do not insist on this change now.

In para 65, members of the Working Party asked whether "Albania had a similar registration and licensing system in place for the sales of domestic production of similar articles".

This information is not provided for all the products listed in the table in Appendix II. We seek a statement to this effect in the descriptive text of this section.

Please clarify the reference in the paragraph in this section of the Working Party report and the "prohibition" table in ALB/35/Rev.1, to the "phase out period".

Reply:

Albania agrees that "as well as to controlling the whole import process" should be removed from WT/ACC/SPEC/ALB/6/Rev.1 (page 104). The paragraph in the table should be as follows:

To control the import of seeds and saplings to ensure the quality of seeds and saplings. To protect the environment, and the protection and safety/health of humans, animals and plants. To adhere to requirements of international organizations to which Albania is a signatory.

Albania confirms that the same licensing and registration system applies to domestic production of similar articles. Albania asks the WTO Secretariat to add this information to the appropriate section.

Albania agrees that the heading of the third column of WT/ACC /ALB/35/Rev.1 is confusing. The Albanian delegation proposes that the heading should be modified -- that instead of "phase-out period" the heading should read as "additional clarification" (or wording to that effect). No phase-out periods for these items are foreseen.

(h) Customs valuation

Question 7.

We can approve this section provisionally, pending review of Annex 6 which reportedly contains the Interpretive Notes to the Agreement, and which Article 14 of the Agreement states are an integral part of it.

Reply:

Albania re-sent a copy of Annex 6. Albania will wait for comments or suggestions by members.

(j) Pre-shipment inspection

Question 8.

We support the commitment in para 77.

Reply:

No response required.

(k) Application of internal taxes on imports

Question 9.

In para 57, Albania states that parliamentary approval of the new rates in the following table was expected "at the end of June 1999". Has the legislation been enacted? If so, when will the implementation of the new rates take place? In this regard, we would prefer that the rates in the chart not be referred to as "proposed" in the table heading".

Even if the legislation has not been enacted, we need a date certain by which the new rates will be applied. Please provide.

Reply:

The draft legislation for excise taxes has been passed into law by parliament, "On Some Changes on the Law on Excise Taxes", Number 8507, dated 7 July 1999. It was enforced on 10 August 1999.

The Albanian delegation asks the WTO Secretariat to please take out the word "proposed" from the table heading.

Question 10.

Please clarify in para 61 if the "value" of the import to which the VAT was applied was the "transaction value" as stipulated for excise taxes in para 56. If not, please specify the value basis for the application of the VAT.

Reply:

Albania confirms that the value of the import to which the VAT was applied is the transaction value as stipulated for excise taxes as discussed in paragraph 56 plus any other legally obliged values (e.g., insurance, transport, tariffs). There are two methods by which the taxable base is determined.

(a) In the case of a good which is not subject to an excise tax, the taxable base for value-added purposes is applied as follows:

$$\{(V_t + Sh_t + S) * \% T_D + |TD| \} * \% VAT.$$

(b) In the case of a good which is subject to an excise tax, the taxable base with the value-added tax is applied as follows:

$$\{[(V_t + Sh_t + S) * \% T_D + |TD|] * \% A + |A| \} * \% VAT.$$

The abbreviations are defined as:

V_t - value of transaction

Sh_t - transport expenses

S - insurance

% T_D - percentage of customs duty
|TD| - absolute value of the customs duty
% VAT - percentage of the value-added tax
% A - percentage of excise tax
|A| - absolute value of the excise tax.

(l) Rules of origin

Question 11.

We support the commitment text in para 75, but we note that Albania does not currently have in place the provisions in Article 2 and Annex II of the referred to in the commitment.

At the last Working Party, we sought inclusion in the Working Party report information on the specific action being taken by Albania to implement this provision of the Agreement on Rules of Origin, i.e. the law or regulation that will implement this provision and information on the issues it will cover.

We would appreciate reference in para 74 to the specific legislation that is under consideration to enact these provisions and a date when the enactment will be accomplished.

Reply:

Albania commits to have all the necessary legislation and regulations by 1 January 2002.

(m) Anti-dumping regime

Question 12.

We support the commitment in para 79.

Reply:

No response required.

(o) Safeguard regime

Question 13.

We support the commitment in para 77.

Reply:

No response required.

2. Export Regulation

(c) Quantitative export restrictions, including prohibitions, quotas and licensing systems

Question 14.

We thank Albania for the additional information and assurances in para 84.

We would like the commitment paragraph to be broken out, para 84bis, and edited slightly.

Reply:

Members stated that in the new shorter para 84 the Decision of the Council of Ministers be referenced and the paragraph should read as follows:

The representative of Albania confirmed that at the time of accession any remaining export control requirements in place would be fully consistent with WTO provisions, including those contained in Articles XI, XVII, XX and XXI of the GATT 1994. In this regard, Albania committed to lift the export bans on items listed in the document WT/ACC/ALB/34/Rev.1 at the end of September 1999 as stated in the Decision of the Council of Ministers. The representative of Albania stated that from the date of accession export restrictions would only be imposed in conformity with the WTO Agreement. The Working Party took note of these commitments.

(f) Export financing, subsidy and promotion policies

Question 15.

We support the commitment in para 86.

Reply:

No response required.

3. Internal Policies Affecting Foreign Trade in Goods

Question 16.

Technical regulations and standards, including measures taken at the border with respect to imports.

We thank Albania for the additional information in WT/ACC/SPECC/ALB/6/Rev.1 concerning implementation of the WTO TBT Agreement. We note that ratification of the WTO Agreement will establish the legal responsibility of Albania in this regard, and the specific Governmental Decrees described in para 92 and 93 will operationalize these provisions.

We seek updating in paras 92 and 93 of the names, decree and decision numbers, and dates of implementation of the remaining legal instruments that will implement WTO TBT obligations in Albanian law.

Paras 93 and 94 states that the establishment in law for the transparency requirements under the TBT Agreement would occur at the end of June.

Why isn't this requirement/practice followed for SPS requirements, i.e., Albania states in the next section that there is no period of publication for prior comment for sanitary and phytosanitary measures?

Reply:

Albania confirms that paragraph 92 can be reworded to reflect that the Code of Good Practices has been adopted in Albania. Paragraph 92 should read as follows:

The representative of Albania stated that the Code of Good Practice for Preparation, Adoption and Application of Standards has been translated into Albanian and has been adopted through the Decision of the Council of Ministers, "For the Approval of the Code of Good Practice for Adoption, Approval and Application of Standards", Number 242, dated 28 May 1999. The GDS has prepared the Decrees of the Albanian Government to assure that all remaining activities will be in compliance with the TBT Agreement.

The rest of the paragraph can remain as is.

The WT/ACC/ALB/32/Rev.1 has been revised. The TBT requirements under the WTO have been met with the passing of the "Law on Standardization", Number 8464, dated 11 March 1999 and the Decisions of the Council of Ministers listed in WT/ACC/ALB/40. ALB/40 has been updated. The remaining two decrees are expected to pass the Council of Ministers by the end of October.

(c) Sanitary and phytosanitary measures, including measures taken with respect to imports

Question 17.

We appreciate the additional information provided by Albania on its implementation of the WTO Agreement on SPS. We believe, however, that the information provided in the chart in this section is not up to date. For example,

Section 3 of the chart reports that "there is nothing in the law at this time" dealing with the transparency requirements of the WTO Agreement on SPS, e.g., requiring prior publication of for comment of measures at an early stage or notification of new measures. Yet in para 94, Albania states that the Decree on Exchange of Information on Standards and Technical Information will address such requirements for TBT. Please indicate if, as with the enquiry point, the transparency and procedural requirements under SPS will be authorized by this Decree. If not, please provide precise citation of the legal instrument that will provide these requirements and the specific date by which we can see full implementation.

Please list by number and name any relevant amendments to "The Law on State Sanitary Inspectorate" or any additional laws should be specifically cited, along with the reference to the specific calendar date by which enactment can be expected.

We support the commitment in paragraph 99.

Reply:

There will be a Decision of the Council of Ministers drafted to provide for prior publication for comments at an early stage and notification of new measures for all existing laws related to SPS (i.e., Law on State Sanitary Inspectorate, Law on Food, Law on Pesticides, etc.). The Decision is expected to be passed at the end of September. The Decree on Exchange of Information on Standards and Technical

Information address such requirements for TBT. There are specific laws which will deal with changes in standards.

Document WT/ACC/ALB/31/Rev.1 has been modified to include a commitment for Albania's inquiry point.

(e) State-trading practices

Question 18.

Can Albania state, e.g., in para 103 of the draft Working Party report, that none of its state-owned enterprises, including firms labeled as "strategic enterprises", and no private firms have an exclusive right of importation or exportation of any product? If not, we believe that firms with such special mandates should be notified as state-trading enterprises.

Para 103 states "78 per cent of exports were generated by privately-owned enterprises". Para 4 states, however, "The private sector accounts for 56 per cent of exports and 82 per cent of imports". Please clarify.

Reply:

Albania confirms that none of its state-owned enterprises, including firms labeled "strategic enterprises", and no private firms have an exclusive right of importation or exportation of nay product.

Albania confirms that 78 per cent of exports were generated by privately-owned enterprises. The Albanian delegation asks the WTO Secretariat to please make the correction in the draft report to avoid this contradiction.

V. TRADE RELATED ASPECTS OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS

We have identified the following remaining issues needing clarification and/or action to complete our review :

2. Substantive standards of protection

(a) Copyright and related rights

Question 19.

We understand that Albania has initiated the procedures for the adhering of the Republic of Albania in the Geneva Convent for the Protection of the Phonograms Producers against Unauthorised Reproduction of their Phonograms" signed in Geneva on 29 November 1971, and will submit a draft law to its Parliament for approval as soon as internal procedures have been completed.

**We would appreciate Albania's statement to that effect in the report, e.g. in para 117.
More Explicit Protection for Pre-existing Works:**

Albania has confirmed to us that while the 1992 Copyright Law does not explicitly state that works that were in the public domain as of 1992 i.e., prior to passage of the copyright law , were at that point retrospectively given copyright protection in Albanian Law , Albania's Constitution provides that a ratified international agreement constitutes part of its internal juridical system, i.e., that

Albania's adherence in 1993 to the Berne Convention On the Protection of Fiction and Artistic works implicitly created that protection in Albanian law.

We appreciate this confirmation, and we would like to see it reflected in the Working Party report text, perhaps in para 120.

We also seek a statement in the descriptive text of the Working Party report that Albania will prepare an amendment to the Copyright Law that will provide a detailed description of the exercise of this coverage in conformity with Article 18 of the Berne Convention.

Has this issue been explored in court since Albania's adherence to the Berne Convention ?

Provision of separate Civil/Criminal Remedies :

In response to questions from members, Albania has stated that at present, protection in Albania of intellectual property rights under civil and criminal procedures are totally independent of each other and based on separate legal acts. Civil court procedures are described in paras 128-131, i.e., the right holder may request that the court order the seizure of the infringing articles and a reimbursement of the damage caused. Grave infringement of intellectual property rights however, is also covered by Articles 147, 148 and 149 of the Penal Code of the Republic of Albania. In such events, the prosecutor's office initiates the penal procedures based on the denouncement filed by the right bearer. Penalties for such infringements, i.e., those that constitute penal contravention and crime, are punished by penalties up to three years imprisonment, according to the level of danger to the population and the infringement of the right.

We appreciate this confirmation, and we would like to see it reflected in the Working Party report text, perhaps after para 131.

Provision for ex parte search and other provisional relief under TRIPS Articles 44 and/or 50:

In response to the question from this delegation, Albania has stated, concerning provisions for ex parte search and other relief under TRIPS Articles 44 and/or 50, Article 11 of the law "Some Changes and Supplements on the law No. 7819, dated 27.04.1994 for Industrial Property" No. 8477, dated 22 April 1999, states that "The court may re-establish the situation that existed before the infringement and to stop infringing actions, to proceed with an effective seizure of the goods and, when necessary, the destroy illegally used marks, tools that could be used to manufacture the goods and goods themselves in absence of possibility to remove any illegally mark from such goods". Article 19 of the Law also provides that "judicial authorities shall have the authority to order prompt and effective provisional measures: to prevent the entry into channels of commerce in their jurisdiction of goods, including imported goods immediately after customs clearance; and to preserve relevant evidence in regard to the alleged infringement".

Could Albania please confirm explicitly in the Working Party report text Article 11 of the Law "Some Changes and Supplements on the law No. 7819, dated 27 April 1994 for Industrial Property" No. 8477, dated 22 April 1999, and Article 19 of the Law provide for ex parte search and other relief as required under TRIPS Articles 44 and/or 50?

Reply:

The following answers were provided to the Secretariat on 12 July 1999 and, slightly modified on 21 July 1999. The first question from 9 July was:

Phonograms: Point of Attachment;

Question 20.

Albania has an obligation to provide a point of attachment for the protection of phonograms (provisions for which are included in the 1992 Copyright law). We recognize that Albanian's copyright law provides explicit protection for sound recordings or phonograms, for a period of 50 years from the date of production.

We seek Albanian's specific agreement to join Geneva Phonograms, which will provide an appropriate point of attachment for both its bilateral and multilateral obligations in this area.

Reply:

"The Albanian Government has initiated the procedures for the adhering of the Republic of Albania to the Convention for the Protection of Producers of Phonograms Against Unauthorized Duplication of Their Phonograms", signed in Geneva on 29 October 1971.

The respective documentation has already been prepared and is sent to interested line ministries and institutions for its approval in principle.

Upon completion of this phase, the draft law for the adherence of the Republic of Albania to this Convention will be prepared."

The Albanian side requests that the WTO Secretariat include this answer in para 117.

More Explicit Protection for Pre - Existing Works:

Question 21

Clarification is needed from Albania on the status of pre - existing foreign works at the time its 1992 Copyright law came into effect i.e., whether works that were in the public domain as of 1992 prior to passage of the copyright law were then retrospectively given copyright protection.

We appreciate Albanian's recognition of the need to provide protection for pre-existing sound recordings under TRIPS Article 14.6/ Berne Article 18, the more general obligation to provide protection for all pre -existing works prior to Albania's accession to Berne in 1994, and dating back a full 50 years.

Albania's general statements in this regard have been helpful, but what is now needed is an explicit and detailed explanation of how Albania's IPR legal structure provides this protection under the 1992 Copyright law or any relevant amendments. Examples of successful civil or criminal legal challenges, regulations, or other information would be appreciated. Note: We recognize that Albania provides terms of protection for phonograms and other copyrighted works that appear to be in conformance with TRIPS, but question whether the provisions in the 1992 Copyright Law can be interpreted so as to take effect retrospectively, i.e. before the effective date of the copyright legislation, or whether

specific provisions to that effect are still needed. Reference to specific legislative provisions would be appreciated.

Reply:

The Albanian delegation suggests a modification of what is stated in para 120 regarding retroactivity and the inclusion of the following statement instead:

The Albanian law "On Copyright" provides for terms of protection of different works, but in this law there is no specific provision which expresses explicitly the retroactive effect. In the Constitution of the Republic of Albania, Article 122/1, it is set forth that any international agreement, that has been ratified, constitutes a part of the internal juridical system of Albania. In addition to this, point 2 of this Article sets forth explicitly: "An international agreement that has been ratified by law has superiority over laws of the country, that are not compatible with it." Within this framework, by the Decree No. 487, dated 9/3/1993 of the President of the Republic of Albania, Albania has adhered to the Berne Convention for the Protection of Literary and Artistic Works. Consequently, the application of the Convention is superior to the Albanian Law on Copyright.

Nevertheless, Albania shall soon prepare an amendment to the Law on Copyright to offer a detailed description on the exercising of the provisions on the pre-existing works dating prior to the date this law came into force, in conformity with article 18 of the Berne Convention.

The rest of the paragraph can remain intact.

Sections 13 and 14 of the law.

With regard to whether the issue had been explored in court since Albania's adherence to the Berne Convention, the Albanian representative answered no.

Provision of separate Civil/Criminal Remedies:

Question 22

We have in the past asked for clarification of whether Albania provides separate criminal remedies for copyright and trademark infringement that is wilful or on a commercial scale, as required by TRIPS Article 61. In the case of copyright, Albania has responded that Article 50 provides for initiation of a penal case upon request of a right holder, after a civil case is first initiated.

This does not conform with the obligations in TRIPS Articles 42 - 49 and Article 61. In our view, the Civil and Criminal remedies should be independent. Again, then, we ask whether Albania will have in place at the time of accession the required criminal provisions for wilful and commercial scale piracy of copyrighted works and trademarks goods.

Reply:

"As a follow up to the explanations given in TRIPS memorandum dated April 1999 on the compliance of the Albanian legislation with Article 61 of the TRIPS Agreement, we clarify that there has been a technical misunderstanding in the translation of the Article 50 of the Law "On Copyright" concerning the relation between the penal judgement and the civil one : In Albania, the protection according to the civil procedures and the protection according to the penal procedures of the Intellectual Property rights are totally independent from each other and are based on separate legal acts.

Civil courts initiate procedures to protect intellectual property rights after a request has been filed by the right holder against the unlawful user of his work. Seeing that the latter has infringed his moral and economic rights, the right holder requests from the court a reimbursement of the damage caused. This is the procedure from the civil point of view.

In the events when the infringement of the intellectual property rights is grave, it constitutes the elements of penal acts of crimes and penal contravention set forth in articles 147,148 and 149 of the Penal Code of the Republic of Albania. In such events, the prosecutor's office initiates the penal procedures based on the complaint lodged by the right holder.

Such infringements which constitute penal contravention and crime are punished by penalties up to three years imprisonment, according to the level of danger to the population and the infringement of the right".

Albania suggests that this answer be included at the end of para 131.

Provision for ex parte search and other provisional relief under TRIPS Articles 44 and/or 50:

Question 23.

Taking into account Albanian's previous statements that the general civil juridical system in Albania applies to IPR cases and that provisional remedies, are available, can Albania confirm explicitly that a right holder is able under Albanian law to seek and receive an order for an ex parte search and seizure or apply for other appropriate injunctive or provisional relief?

The commitment paragraph in this section reflects U.S. comments. We reserve pending response on the foregoing points.

Reply:

In Article 11 of the Law "Some changes and supplements on the Law No. 7819, dated 27 April 1994, for Industrial Property" No. 8477, dated 22 April 1999, it is said:

"In addition to the members specified in paragraph 2(a) of article 89 of the "Law on Industrial Property", the court may reestablish the situation that existed before the infringement and to stop infringing actions, to proceed with an effective seizure of the goods and, when necessary, to destroy illegally used marks, tools that could be used to manufacture the goods and the goods themselves in absence of possibility to remove any illegally mark from such goods."

Article 19 of the cited Law above provides:

"The judicial authorities shall have the authority to order prompt and effective provisional measures: to prevent an infringement of any industrial property rights from occurring, and in particular to prevent the entry into the channels of commerce in their jurisdiction of goods, including imported goods immediately after customs clearance; and to preserve relevant evidence in regard to the alleged infringement."

Albania confirms that articles 42, 70 and 89 of the Law on Industrial Property authorize the court to enjoin patent, trademark or industrial design infringements.

In the Implementation Provisions on Customs Code, approved by the Council of Ministers on 13 April 1999, it is mentioned that the holder of the right may lodge an application in writing at the General

Directorate of Customs for action after presenting proof that there are counterfeited or pirated goods. When the General Directorate of Customs is convinced, it may suspend the release of the goods or seize the goods, depending on the situation.

Albania suggests that these answers be reflected in the Working Party draft report.

Trade Agreements

Question 24.

We do not agree that the tables provided by Albania in WT/ACC/SPEC/ALB/6/rev.1 adequately portray the MFN market access implication of its trade agreements.

As we requested at the last two working party sessions, in this section Albania needs to state clearly whether it has preferential agreements of any kind in place and what kind it is contemplating. Reference to the agreements in the tables without characterizing whether they are MFN, preferential, FTA, etc. is not useful.

In ALB/39, Albania has already confirmed that there are no cases where Albania's trade agreements give its partners preferential treatment in goods and states that Albania does not contemplate concluding any such agreements. Albania also indicates that in its updated schedule on services, information is provided that it has bilateral agreements related to air transport services which are MFN exemptions and that the list of countries is provided in the schedule.

We seek incorporation of this information in the Working Party report.

We seek information on the nature of the agreements listed in the tables, i.e., do any of them provide for preferential treatment of any kind to the imports or exports of goods and services from or to these countries.

The commitment paragraph in this section reflects members comments, but we insist that useful information on Albania's trade relations with other countries be included in this section.

Reply:

Paragraph 138 needs to be deleted. Albania does not have a bilateral trade agreement with Canada.

Albania's Bilateral Agreements for Promotion and Protection of Investments				
Agreement by Country	Date of Implementation	Type of Agreement	Description on how the agreement affects investment	Goods According to Harmonized System
Belgium-Luxemburg	Feb 1999	Framework Agreement with all mentioned countries	This agreement intended to create legal basis to promote mutual cooperation on the field of investments. According to this agreement each Party will encourage and create favorable conditions for investors of other Party in its territory and will accord investments and investors of the other party most favorable nation treatment and national treatment which accords to its own investors and investments.	This is not a preferential agreement in this field and the cooperation will be established in the basis of the contractual relations between natural or judicial persons of each Party.
Portugal	Sep 1998			
Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	Feb 1998			
Slovenia	Oct 1997			
Finland	Jun 1997			
Israel	Jan 1996			
Hungary	Jan 1996			
Denmark	Sep 1995			
France	Jun 1995			
Netherlands	Mar 1994 – Mar 1995			
Egypt	Dec 1994			
Russian Federation	Dec 1994			
Czech Republic	Jun 1994			
Romania	May 1994			
Bulgaria	Apr 1994			
United Kingdom	Mar 1994			
Malaysia	Jan 1994			
Tunisia	Oct 1993			
Croatia	May 1993			
Poland	Mar 1993			
Austria	Mar 1993			
China	Feb 1993			
Switzerland	Sep 1992			
Turkey	Jun 1992			
United States	Nov 1991			
Germany	Oct 1991			
Italy	Sept 1991			
Greece	Mar 1991			

Albania's Bilateral Agreements on Economic Cooperation and Trade				
Agreement by Country	Date of Implementation	Type of Agreement	Description on how the agreement affects trade	Goods According to Harmonized System
Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	Feb 1998	Framework Agreement with all mentioned countries	This agreement intended to create legal basis to promote mutual cooperation on the field of trade in goods and services, as well, in all fields of economy. According to this agreement each party will encourage and create favorable conditions concerning export or imports of goods originating from the other Party in its territory and will accord to the goods originating from the other Party most favorable nation treatment and national treatment which accords to its own goods or its own traders	None. This is not a preferential agreement, nor a free trade agreement. The provisions of this agreement shall not apply to advantages and privileges granted by either Party to neighbour countries to facilitate the development of the border trade or to countries with which Parties has concluded or will conclude in the future an agreement on the customs union or on a free trade zone. Exports and imports of goods and services as well as the economic cooperation between Parties shall be affected on the basis of the contracts concluded in accordance with the laws and regulations in force of the countries of the Parties, between legal and natural persons of each Party.
Slovenia	Oct 1997			
France	Jun 1995			
Netherlands	Mar 1994 – Mar 1995			
Egypt	Dec 1994			
Russian Federation	Dec 1994			
Czech Republic	Jun 1994			
Romania	May 1994			
Bulgaria	Apr 1994			
Malaysia	Jan 1994			
Croatia	May 1993			
Poland	Mar 1993			
Austria	Mar 1993			
China	Feb 1993			
Switzerland	Sep 1992			
Turkey	Jun 1992			
United States	Nov 1991			
Germany	Oct 1991			
Italy	Sept 1991			
Greece	Mar 1991			

Protocol text

Question 25.

Paragraph 7 of the Protocol of Accession states:

This Protocol shall be open for acceptance, by signature or otherwise, by Albania until.....

We would like to know what date Albania intends to insert in this paragraph.

Reply:

Albania requests that its parliament have until the end of September/October to accept the Protocol of Accession.
