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**Working Party on the
Accession of Croatia**

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ACCESSION OF CROATIA

Transitional Periods

The following communication concerning transitional periods has been received from the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Croatia.

In January 1998 the Government of the Republic of Croatia submitted to the WTO Secretariat a proposal on transitional periods for the implementation of the following WTO Agreements:

- Agreement on Customs Valuation
- Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade
- Agreement on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures
- TRIPS Agreement

Having analyzed all aspects of the already existing legal provisions and a realistic time framework for future adjustments to the WTO standards, rules and principles, the Government of the Republic of Croatia hereby declares that it withdraws requests for transition periods for the implementation of the:

- Agreement on Customs Valuation
- Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade
- Agreement on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

Consequently, all three Agreements will be fully implemented as from the date of Croatia's accession to the WTO.

The proposal for the transitional period for implementation of the TRIPS Agreement up to 30 June 1999 is still valid, as the Government of Croatia assesses that this period is objectively needed for the complete harmonization of the existing legislation with the TRIPS Agreement, and that all other procedures for Croatia's accession to the WTO could be finalized before 30 June 1999.
