

WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

RESTRICTED

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**Working Party on the Accession
of the Sultanate of Oman**

Original: English

ACCESSION OF THE SULTANATE OF OMAN

Communication from the Sultanate of Oman

Revision

The following revised communication concerning new laws, regulations, ministerial decrees and changes to existing laws before accession has been received from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry of the Government of the Sultanate of Oman.

New Laws, Regulations, Ministerial Decrees and Changes to Existing Laws Before Accession

Synoptic Table

The Sultanate of Oman is committed to the implementation of the TRIPS Agreement. An action plan for this purpose is given in the following synoptic table.

| S.No. | Law | Present Position and On-going Programme | Future Programme |
|-------|------------|--|---|
| 1 | Trademarks | Trademark Law is in place since 1987 and is being implemented. Points of conformity and non-conformity of the existing law with the provisions of the TRIPS Agreement have been identified. Draft amended law has been prepared in consultation with WIPO. It has been examined and is being translated in English prior to submitting to WTO and WIP for remarks. | * Amendments to be Trade Marks Law will be promulgated by September 1999, to bring the Law into full conformity with the provisions of the TRIPS Agreement. |

| S.No. | Law | Present Position and On-going Programme | Future Programme |
|-------|--------------------------------------|---|--|
| 2 | Copyright and related rights | Copyright Law of Oman is in force since 1996 and is being implemented. Points of conformity and non-conformity of the existing law with the provisions of the TRIPS Agreement have been identified. Draft amended law has been prepared in consultation with WIPO and is under examination and will be submitted to WTO and WIPO for remarks early September 1999. | * Amendments to the Copyright Law will be promulgated by November 1999, to bring the Law into full conformity with the provisions of the TRIPS Agreement. |
| 3 | Patents | GCC Unified Patent System is already in force since May 1999. Oman subscribes to it with the issue of the Ministerial Decree in September 1993 which adopted the GCC Unified Patent System as the Patent Law of Oman. | - |
| 4 | Geographical Indications | Draft law on geographical indications of origin is being translated in English and will be submitted to WTO and WIPO for remarks | * A new law will be promulgated by September 1999. |
| 5 | Industrial Designs. | Draft law on geographical indications of origin is being translated in English and will be submitted to WTO and WIPO for remarks. | * A law on industrial designs in conformity with the provisions of the TRIPS Agreement will be promulgated by September 1999. |
| 6 | Layout Design of Integrated Circuits | There is no law at present. WIPO has provided a draft law which has been examined. It is being translated in English and will be submitted to WTO and WIPO for remarks. | * A new law will be promulgated by September 1999. |
| 7 | Trade Secrets | No law at present. A draft addition to the Trademark law has been prepared in consultation with WIPO. | * A law will be promulgated by September 1999. |
| 8 | Abuse of Anti-Competitive Practices. | No law at present. A draft addition to the Trademark law has been prepared in consultation with WIPO. | * A new law will be promulgated by September 1999. |
| 9 | Customs Valuation | Draft law on Customs Valuation has been prepared by WCO. It is now under examination and will take on board comments from a WTO member. | * Prepared revised draft law, taking into account Members' comments will be submitted to WTO and WCO for remarks by September 1999. * A new law will be promulgated by December 1999. |

| S.No. | Law | Present Position and On-going Programme | Future Programme |
|-------|---|---|---|
| 10 | TBT | Work on establishing an Enquiry Point within DGSM and preparing a Draft Ministerial Decree to implement the Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade is ongoing. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * An Enquiry Point within DGSM will be established by September 1999. * Ministerial Decree implementing the provisions of the TBT Agreement will be issued by October 1999. |
| 11 | SPS | Work on establishing an Enquiry Point within the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries and preparing a Draft Ministerial Decree to implement the Agreement on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures is ongoing. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * An Enquiry Point within the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries will be established by September 1999. * Ministerial Decree implementing the provisions of the SPS Agreement will be issued by October 1999. |
| 12 | Law on Organization and Encouragement of Industry | The law is being revised to bring it into conformity with WTO rules. | * The revision/amendment will be completed prior to Oman's accession to the WTO. The draft revision will be submitted to the WTO. |
| 13 | Law establishing the Commercial Court | Legislation on right of appeal to a judicial body in all trade-related and customs matters is being examined to be incorporated in the law establishing the Commercial Court. | * Amendments to the law establishing the Commercial Court to include the right of appeals in customs matters and all trade-related matters will be promulgated by December 1999. |