

WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

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Committee on Regional Trade Agreements

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FREE TRADE AGREEMENT BETWEEN BULGARIA AND SERBIA AND MONTENEGRO

Notification from Bulgaria

The following communication, dated 2 March 2005, is being circulated at the request of the Delegation of Bulgaria.

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Bulgaria to the World Trade Organization, pursuant of Article XXIV: 7(a) of GATT 1994 and the Understanding on the Interpretation of Article XXIV of GATT 1994, has the honour to inform the Members of the WTO that a Free Trade Agreement between the Republic of Bulgaria and Serbia and Montenegro was signed on 13 November 2003. It came into force on 1 June 2004 after completion of ratification procedures by both Parties to the Agreement.¹

The Agreement contains provisions relating to trade in goods that are of relevance to the Members of the World Trade Organization.

The Agreement provides for the gradual establishment of a free-trade area between the Republic of Bulgaria and Serbia and Montenegro, in the sense of Article XXIV of the GATT 1994 and the Understanding on the Interpretation of Article XXIV of GATT 1994, over a transitional period, ending on 1 January 2007. At the end of this period, all duties and other restrictive regulations of commerce will be eliminated on substantially all trade between the signatories.

¹ The text of the Agreement will be circulated in document WT/REG195/1. The associated Annexes have been submitted to the Secretariat for consultation by interested Members (office 1174).