

# WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

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Committee on Regional Trade Agreements

Original: English

## FREE TRADE AGREEMENT BETWEEN CROATIA AND SERBIA AND MONTENEGRO

### Notification from Croatia

The following communication, dated 20 September 2005, is being circulated at the request of the Delegation of Croatia.

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The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Croatia, pursuant to Article XXIV:7(a) of GATT 1994 and the Understanding of Article XXIV of GATT 1994, wishes to notify that the Free Trade Agreement between the Republic of Croatia and the former Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, now Serbia and Montenegro, was signed on 23 December 2002 and the Agreement on Amendments to the Free Trade Agreement between the Republic of Croatia and Serbia and Montenegro was signed on 14 January 2004, and both of them have been applied from 1 July 2004.<sup>1</sup>

By the Agreement on Amendments to the Agreement the definition of the basic duties and duties' reduction dynamics have been modified and certain changes in the lists of sensitive industrial and agricultural food products have been done.

The Agreement, amended by the Agreement on Amendments is subject to ratification. Both of them enter into force on the first day of the second month following the date of the receipt of the last written notification by which Parties inform each other through diplomatic channels that all necessary requirements foreseen by their internal legislation for the entry into force of this Agreement have been fulfilled.

The Agreement, amended by the Agreement on Amendments contains provisions relating to goods that are of relevance to Members of the World Trade Organisation.

The Agreement, amended by the Agreement on Amendments provides for the establishment of a free-trade area between the Republic of Croatia and Serbia and Montenegro on the basis of Article XXIV of the GATT 1994, which will be established by 1 January 2007. At that time, duties and other restrictive regulations of commerce will have been eliminated on substantially all the trade between the signatories of the Agreement, as amended by the Agreement on Amendments.

Both Parties wish to express their willingness to contribute to the process of examination in accordance with the procedures agreed upon in the Committee on Regional Trade Agreements.

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<sup>1</sup> The text of the Agreement and its Amendments will be circulated in document WT/REG205/1. The associated Annexes and Protocols have been submitted to the Secretariat for consultation by interested Members (office 1174).