

PAN-ARAB FREE TRADE AREA AGREEMENT

Notification from Saudi Arabia

The following communication, dated 3 October 2006, is being circulated at the request of the Delegation of Saudi Arabia.

Notification under Article XXIV of the GATT 1994 and the Understanding thereon

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has the honour to inform Members of the WTO that a Pan-Arab Free Trade Area Agreement between Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, the United Arab Emirates and Yemen has been concluded. The Agreement entered into force on 1 January 1998.¹

The Free Trade Area Agreement contains provisions relating to trade in goods that are of relevance to the Members of the WTO. The Agreement establishes a free-trade area between Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, the United Arab Emirates and Yemen, in the sense of Article XXIV of the GATT 1994 and the Understanding on the Interpretation of Article XXIV. Duties and other restrictive regulations of commerce on substantially all trade between the signatories had to be eliminated by 31 December 2007. However, duties have been eliminated as of 1 January 2005.

¹ The text of the Agreement has not yet been made available to the Secretariat.