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Council for Trade in Services

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COMMUNICATION FROM AUSTRALIA

REVIEW OF ARTICLE II (MFN) EXEMPTIONS

Questions from Australia

The following communication, dated 3 January 2017, from the delegation of Australia is being circulated to the Members of the Council for Trade in Services.

For the purpose of the review of the MFN exemptions by the Council for Trade in Services in accordance with the Annex on Article II Exemptions of the GATS, we would request the Members concerned respond to the following questions in respect of their MFN exemptions (see JOB/SERV/29/Rev.1 for the relevant page number reference):

1 SPECIFIC QUESTIONS ON SECTORAL EXEMPTIONS

Professional Services

Q1 Legal Services, Brunei Darussalam (page 44), Singapore (page 48)

Do the conditions that created the need for these MFN exemptions still prevail? We note Brunei Darussalam and Singapore have kept open the possibility of removing these exemptions for legal services. Could Brunei Darussalam and Singapore please provide an update as to whether they are considering removal of the exemption?

Q2 Auditing Services, Thailand (page 48)

Do the conditions creating the need for the exemption still prevail? Could Thailand provide an update as to whether it is considering removal of this exemption?

Construction Services

Q3 Indonesia (page 106)

Do the conditions that created the need for these MFN exemptions still prevail? If not, could Indonesia provide an update as to whether they are considering removal of the exemptions?

Financial Services

Q4 Brunei Darussalam (page 109-110); Indonesia (page 114); Philippines (page 117)

Do the conditions that created the need for these MFN exemptions still prevail? Could Members please provide an update as to whether they are considering removal of the exemptions?