ACCESSION OF TUNISIA

TIME-LIMIT FOR THE SIGNATURE BY TUNISIA
OF THE PROTOCOL OF ACCESSION

Communication from the Director-General

1. At its meeting on 2 February 1988, the Council of Representatives considered the Report of the Working Party on the Accession of Tunisia (L/6277). The Council took note that there had been consensus in the Working Party that support for the approval of the texts and adoption of the Report by the Council would depend upon the satisfactory conclusion of the bilateral tariff negotiations. The Council agreed to revert to this item at a future meeting (C/M/217, Item 1, pages 2-3).

2. The draft Protocol of Accession of Tunisia is reproduced in the Annex to document L/6277, pages 14-15. Paragraph 5 of the draft Protocol provides that the Protocol of Accession shall be open for signature by Tunisia until 30 June 1988. At its meeting on 15-16 June 1988, the Council took note that the time-limit would be changed to 15 November 1988 (C/M/222, Item 9, page 24). On 7 November 1988, at the Forty-Fourth Session, the CONTRACTING PARTIES took note that the time-limit would be changed to 30 March 1989 (SR.44/2, point 17, page 12).

3. As it has become apparent that the tariff negotiations required for accession will not be completed on time for Tunisia to sign the Protocol of Accession within the prescribed time-limit, it is suggested that the time-limit in paragraph 5 of the draft Protocol of Accession of Tunisia be changed to 30 June 1989.

4. I wish to inform contracting parties that at its meeting on 6 March 1989, the Council will be asked to take note of this change.