GATT MEMBERSHIP REACHES 96 AS LESOTHO JOINS

Lesotho has become, with effect from 8 January 1988, a Contracting Party to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.

Lesotho became independent from the United Kingdom in October 1966 and has since applied the GATT rules in its trade on a de facto basis. Having now decided to seek full GATT membership, it has been able, through a simple declaration to this effect, to become a Contracting Party under Article XXVI of the General Agreement.

The accession of Lesotho brings the total of GATT members to 96. In addition, one country has acceded provisionally to GATT, and a further 28 in practice apply the rules of GATT in their commercial policy.