CZECH REPUBLIC AND SLOVAK REPUBLIC ACCEDE TO THE GATT

The GATT now has 109 member states with the accession, on 15 April 1993, of the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic. These two countries were part of the former Czechoslovakia, which was one of the 23 founder members of the GATT which entered into force in January 1948.

The GATT Contracting Parties, at their Forty-Eighth Session held on 2-3 December 1992, agreed that the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic could accede to the General Agreement under the same terms applied by the former Czech and Slovak Republic, without carrying out any negotiations.

The GATT Council, on 9-10 February 1993, approved the terms of the Draft Protocols of Accession for the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic, respectively, and the text of the corresponding decisions, which were submitted to a vote by the contracting parties.

The required number of affirmative votes, two-thirds of the contracting parties or 71 votes, was reached on 19 February 1993. In ceremonies held on 16 March 1993 at the GATT headquarters, the Economy Minister of the Czech Republic, Mr. Vladimír Dlouhy, and the Economy Minister of the Slovak Republic, Mr. Ludovít Cernák, signed the new Protocols of Accession as separate contracting parties to the GATT. In accordance with procedures, the two countries’ accession took effect 30 days after the signing (15 April 1993).