THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES BECOMES 117th MEMBER OF THE GATT

On 8 March 1994, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) became the 117th member of the GATT following its notification to Mr. Peter Sutherland, GATT Director-General, under the terms of Article XXVI:5(c) of the General Agreement.

On becoming independent from the United Kingdom on 1 December 1971, the UAE acquired full autonomy in the conduct of its external commercial relations and has been applying the General Agreement on a de facto basis since then. Under these circumstances, the UAE needed only to notify the GATT Director-General that it wished to be deemed a contracting party according to the provisions of Article XXVI:5(c).

With the accession of the UAE, the number of participants in the Uruguay Round is now 119.

NOTES TO EDITORS

1. The text of Article XXVI:5(c) of the General Agreement is as follows:

"If any of the customs territories, in respect of which a contracting party has accepted this Agreement, possesses or acquires full autonomy in the conduct of its external commercial relations and of the other matters provided for in this Agreement, such territory shall, upon sponsorship through a declaration by the responsible contracting party establishing the above-mentioned fact, be deemed to be a contracting party."

2. In 1992, the total value of the UAE's merchandise exports amounted to US$21.6 billion, primarily composed of crude oil and petroleum products, with the main destinations being Japan, Singapore, South Korea and India. The total value of imports amounted to US$16.6 billion, mainly composed of manufactured goods, machinery and transport equipment, and food and beverages from Japan, UK, US and Germany.