QATAR BECOMES 121st MEMBER OF THE GATT

On 7 April 1994, Qatar became the 121st 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.

The Government of the State of Qatar has been applying the General Agreement on a de facto basis, pursuant to recommendations of the contracting parties of 18 November 1960 and of 11 November 1967. Under these circumstances, Qatar 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 Qatar, the number of participants in the Uruguay Round is now 123.

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 1991, the total value of Qatar's imports of goods amounted to US$1,529 million, primarily composed of machinery and transport equipment, manufactured goods and food and live animals. Imports were mainly from Japan, the United Kingdom and the United States. In the same year exports amounted to US$3,000 million, comprising mainly of crude petroleum. Qatar's principal export market is Japan.