SLOVENIA BECOMES 124th MEMBER OF GATT

Slovenia became the 124th member of GATT on 30 October 1994, 30 days after the country's Protocol of Accession had been formally ratified by the Government of the Republic of Slovenia.

The terms of the Protocol were negotiated in a Working Party established in July 1992 and GATT Contracting Parties decided that Slovenia could accede to GATT on 12 September 1994. In the Working Party, Slovenia agreed to a number of commitments including a general tariff binding of 27 per cent on industrial and most agricultural products, the elimination within three years of import surcharges on beverages, cigarettes and used cars and the removal of quantitative restrictions on imports.

Following the conclusion of its work on GATT accession, the Working Party has recently begun the examination of Slovenia's request to become a member of the World Trade Organization (WTO).

NOTES TO EDITORS

1. In 1991, the total value of Slovenia's exports amounted to US$ 3,855 million. Imports totalled $4,140 million. Exports of services amounted to $1,050 million with imports at $414 million. Slovenia's major trading partner is the European Communities, accounting for 69 per cent of exports and 62 per cent of imports. Eleven per cent of all exports go to countries in Eastern Europe. In Slovenia, manufacturing activity continues to shift away from traditional sectors such as textiles, footwear, and wood products toward the production of electrical goods, automobiles and chemicals.

2. Currently, there are 21 countries for which accession working parties to the GATT and/or WTO have been established: Albania, Algeria, Armenia, Belarus, Bulgaria, Croatia, Ecuador, Estonia, Jordan, Latvia, Lithuania, Moldova, Mongolia, Nepal, Panama, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Slovenia, Sudan, Chinese Taipei and Ukraine. An additional working party concerns China's status as a contracting party.