

GW / 01
22 June 1994

SEAT OF THE WTO - CANDIDATES AND SELECTION PROCEDURES

The final candidates for the seat of the World Trade Organization (WTO) were announced on 15 June, the last day for submission of proposals from governments, at the meeting of the WTO Preparatory Committee's Sub-Committee on Budget, Finance and Administration.

Ambassador Andras Szepesi, Chairman of the Sub-Committee, announced that proposals had been received from Germany and Switzerland, inviting the WTO to be located in Bonn and Geneva respectively.

The Sub-Committee agreed on the following procedures for examining the proposals:

- on 23 June and 24 June, Switzerland and Germany, respectively, will present their proposals to the Sub-Committee and respond to further questions and requests for clarification;
- Ambassador Szepesi and Mr Pierre Gosselin, Chairman of the GATT Budget Committee, will then consult informally with members of the Sub-Committee in order to determine an emerging view;
- the Chairmen will report to the Sub-Committee with a recommendation on the seat of the WTO to enable the Sub-Committee to make a final recommendation to the WTO Preparatory Committee by 15 July;
- the Preparatory Committee will make a final decision before the summer break.

Both the proposals contain detailed information, including specifications of the buildings, together with ancillary facilities and terms of occupancy; availability of offices for contracting parties, with special terms for the least-developed countries; and any special privileges and immunities for the staff and family members of the WTO and the contracting parties.

Note to editors:

Membership of the WTO Preparatory Committee and the Sub-Committee on Budget, Finance and Administration is open to all signatories of the Final Act.