

**GENERAL AGREEMENT
ON TARIFFS AND TRADE**

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EUROPEAN BANK FOR RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT

Request for observer status

The following communication, dated 7 July 1994, has been received from the President of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD).¹

The EBRD has been considering the possibility of applying for observer status at the GATT and the WTO. Following informal contacts that our Chief Economist, Mr. Nicholas Stern, has had with Mr. Jesús Seade, and through him with other senior members of your staff, this issue was recently put to our senior management, which has recommended an application for observer status.

The EBRD's mandate is centred on the fostering of transition to an open-market economy. It invests in projects for which, in many cases, the trading environment is crucial. The sharing of knowledge and expertise should be of benefit to both our institutions and to our member countries. We shall, of course, continue to invite the GATT/WTO to our Annual Meetings of the Board of Governors and its programme of related events. We look forward to interchange between our staff on an ongoing basis. We would also wish to institute a document exchange programme.

Subject to more detailed consideration, the bodies that appear to be of relevance to us are the Council of Representatives of GATT and the WTO's General Council and, thereby, the Council for Trade in Goods, the Council for Trade in Services, the Trade Policy Review Body, as well as selected accession working parties, where relevant.

I should be very grateful if you could transmit our interest in observer status to the appropriate bodies in your institution.

¹Since the EBRD's request for observer status in the Council was received too late to be considered at the Council meeting on 20 July 1994, the Council agreed to consider this request at its meeting on 4 October 1994.