

GATT/1661  
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### **THE REPUBLIC OF GUINEA BECOMES 125th MEMBER OF THE GATT**

On 8 December 1994, the Republic of Guinea became the 125th 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 France notified the contracting parties on 24 June 1994 that the Republic of Guinea had acquired full autonomy in October 1958 for the conduct of its external commercial relations and other matters provided for in the General Agreement. Guinea has been applying GATT on a *de facto* basis since its independence. Under these circumstances, Guinea 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). In its notification, Guinea also stated its intent to become a member of the World Trade Organization.

#### Notes to Editors:

1. The text of Article XXVI:5(c) of the 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. The value of Guinea's exports of goods in 1993 amounted to \$646 million. Exports of bauxite and alumina made up 73% of earnings, gold and diamonds 15% and coffee, fish, fresh fruit and vegetables accounted for 12%. Key export markets were the United States, Belgium and Luxembourg, Ireland, Spain, France and Italy. Imports of food, capital and manufactured goods and primary commodities amounted to \$758 million in 1993. Imports were mainly from France, Côte d'Ivoire, the United States, Hong Kong and the Benelux countries.