

|   |          |
|---|----------|
| <b>1 ARTICLE III</b> .....                      | <b>1</b> |
| 1.1 Text of Article III .....                   | 1        |
| 1.2 General .....                               | 1        |
| 1.2.1 Telecommunications.....                   | 1        |
| 1.2.2 Electronic commerce .....                 | 2        |
| 1.2.3 Accountancy services .....                | 2        |
| 1.3 Article III:3 Format for notifications..... | 2        |
| 1.4 Article III:4 Enquiry points .....          | 2        |

## **1 ARTICLE III OF THE GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TRADE IN SERVICES**

### **1.1 Text of Article III**

#### ***Article III***

##### *Transparency*

1. Each Member shall publish promptly and, except in emergency situations, at the latest by the time of their entry into force, all relevant measures of general application which pertain to or affect the operation of this Agreement. International agreements pertaining to or affecting trade in services to which a Member is a signatory shall also be published.
2. Where publication as referred to in paragraph 1 is not practicable, such information shall be made otherwise publicly available.
3. Each Member shall promptly and at least annually inform the Council for Trade in Services of the introduction of any new, or any changes to existing, laws, regulations or administrative guidelines which significantly affect trade in services covered by its specific commitments under this Agreement.
4. Each Member shall respond promptly to all requests by any other Member for specific information on any of its measures of general application or international agreements within the meaning of paragraph 1. Each Member shall also establish one or more enquiry points to provide specific information to other Members, upon request, on all such matters as well as those subject to the notification requirement in paragraph 3. Such enquiry points shall be established within two years from the date of entry into force of the Agreement Establishing the WTO (referred to in this Agreement as the "WTO Agreement"). Appropriate flexibility with respect to the time-limit within which such enquiry points are to be established may be agreed upon for individual developing country Members. Enquiry points need not be depositories of laws and regulations.
5. Any Member may notify to the Council for Trade in Services any measure, taken by any other Member, which it considers affects the operation of this Agreement.

### **1.2 General**

#### **1.2.1 Telecommunications**

1. Paragraph 4 of the Annex on Telecommunications sets forth special provisions concerning the application of Article III to telecommunication services.

### 1.2.2 Electronic commerce

2. With respect to the applicability of Article III to electronic commerce, see the Progress Report adopted by the Council for Trade in Services in the context of the Work Programme on Electronic Commerce on 19 July 1999.<sup>1</sup>

### 1.2.3 Accountancy services

3. With respect to transparency in domestic regulations in the field of accountancy services, see the Disciplines on Domestic Regulation in the Accountancy Sector, adopted by the Council for Trade in Services at its meeting of 14 December 1998.<sup>2</sup>

### 1.3 Article III:3 Format for notifications

4. On 1 March 1995, the Council for Trade in Service approved the "Guidelines for Notifications under the General Agreement on Trade in Services".<sup>3</sup>

### 1.4 Article III:4 Enquiry points

5. On 28 May 1996, the Council for Trade in Services adopted the "Decision on the Notification of the Establishment of Enquiry and Contact Points", which calls upon Members to notify the establishment of enquiry points pursuant to Paragraph 4 of Article III.<sup>4</sup>

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Current as of: March 2020

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<sup>1</sup> [S/L/74](#), para. 9.

<sup>2</sup> [S/L/64](#).

<sup>3</sup> [S/C/M/1](#), paras. 10-11. The approved Guidelines can be found in [S/L/5](#).

<sup>4</sup> [S/C/M/10](#), paras. 9-10. The decision can be found in [S/L/23](#).