

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON
TARIFFS AND TRADE

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EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION PURSUANT TO THE
MINISTERIAL DECISION ON SERVICES

Communication from the United States

The following communication, dated 31 March 1983, has been received from the United States Trade Representative.

I am writing to request, pursuant to the Ministerial Decision on Services, concerning exchanges of information on services, that the attached outline of a proposed United States study on services be distributed to contracting parties for their information. My delegation would, of course, welcome any comments that other delegations may wish to make concerning this outline.

SERVICES STUDY

United States national study

A preliminary outline

I. Importance of trade in services

A. A discussion of the rôle of services in the global economy.

II. The services economy

A. Current state of the service economy and the macro-economic trends that affect it.

B. An examination of the various factors that shape the marketing of service.

C. Regulation of United States service sectors and the general attitude of State and federal governments to activities of those sectors.

III. Conceptual issues affecting services industries internationally

A. Generic examples including:

1. Regulatory régimes
2. The structure of some service sectors including State participation
3. Technical barriers
4. Taxation
5. Market access

B. A discussion as to the relationship of these elements to services trade with specific reference to individual sectors where appropriate.

C. Some observations as to where trade problems emerge out of these policies.

IV. An examination of existing international régimes and their possible relation to services

- A. Articles and principles of the GATT
- B. OECD Code on Invisible Transactions
- C. International Telecommunications Union
- D. UNCTAD Liner Code
- E. ICAO
- F. FCN treaties
- G. Other

V. Discussion of possible approaches for dealing with services trade problems internationally

A. Bilateral mechanisms applicable to all sectors or individual sectors.

B. Multilateral disciplines that borrow from existing régimes and/or employ similar approaches.

VI. Conclusions and recommendations for future work

A. A discussion of the preferred United States approach as well as suggestions for future work.

VII. Appendix

A. Sectoral analysis papers may include:

1. Telecommunications
2. Construction and engineering
3. Banking
4. Insurance
5. Shipping
6. Aviation
7. Tourism
8. Professional services
9. Motion pictures
10. Advertising
11. Franchising
12. Technology
13. Leasing

A detailed discussion of the issues and problems encountered in various service industries and the rationale behind differing national policy and policy actions.

B. Inventory of barriers to trade in services

A listing by sector of problems United States service firms encounter in foreign markets.

C. Data on trade in services

1. Discussion of the problems which exist in developing statistical data on trade in services.
2. Compilation of existing available data on services trade.