

GATT/1501  
14 January 1991

MACAO BECOMES GATT'S 101ST MEMBER

With effect from 11 January, Macao has become a contracting party to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.

Macao is deemed to be a contracting party to GATT by virtue of a declaration made by the Government of Portugal under Article XXVI:5(c) of the General Agreement which was delivered to the GATT Secretariat on 11 January 1991. The declaration stated that Macao possesses full autonomy in the conduct of its external commercial relations.

The GATT Secretariat has also received a parallel declaration from the Government of the People's Republic of China confirming that, as from 20 December 1999, the Macao Special Administrative Region will continue to meet the requirements necessary to be deemed a contracting party to GATT as prescribed in Article XXVI:5(c) of the General Agreement.

The addition of Macao brings the total of GATT members to 101.

GATT rules have been applied in respect of Macao since 1962 and until now its interests have been represented from within the Portuguese delegation.

Notes to Editors

1. The text of Article XXVI:5(c) of the General Agreement is as follows:

"(c) 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. Macao's exports in 1988 amounted to US\$1,400 million while its imports were valued at US\$1,290 million. Macao's major export markets are the United States, Hong Kong and the European Community while its principal suppliers are Hong Kong, China and Japan. Macao is a significant producer and exporter of textiles and clothing.

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