

**MULTILATERAL TRADE  
NEGOTIATIONS  
THE URUGUAY ROUND**

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Group of Negotiations on Services

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COMMUNICATION FROM GABON

Revised MFN Exemption List of Gabon

The following communication is circulated at the request of Gabon to the members of the Group of Negotiations on Services.

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1. Gabon requests an exemption from the most-favoured-nation clause for maritime services mentioned in the attached Annex.
  2. However, like most developing countries Gabon remains bound by the 40-40-20 rule imposed by UNCTAD on all member States. The establishment of foreign companies does not, for the time being, raise any problems for our country.
  3. The initial commitments of Gabon are set out in the attached tables.
  4. The areas in which Gabon intends to make commitments are indicated in accordance with the Services Sectoral Classification in document MTN.GNS/W/120.
  5. In submitting this offer Gabon wishes to stress once again that it is conditional and may be revised, modified, refined or withdrawn.
  6. The offer of Gabon is subject to the applicable national laws and other regulations and directives governing the sectors covered.

## ANNEX

## LIST OF ARTICLE II EXEMPTIONS FOR GABON

| Measure<br>(i)   | Sub-sector<br>(i)   | Purpose of measure<br>(ii)   | Partners concerned<br>(i) | Existing or future measures<br>(i)   | Optional or mandatory<br>(i) | Duration<br>(iii)                                   | Conditions<br>(iv)  |
|--|---|--|---------------------------|--|------------------------------|---|---|
| Competent government agency. Laws, decrees, and decisions based on bilateral or multilateral agreements.   | Maritime transport.<br>Coastal shipping<br>(cabotage) trade | To grant cabotage rights to trading partners on a reciprocal basis   | 25 countries              | Future   |                              | Near future, while the objective pursued takes root | To stimulate international trade and promote regional integration   |
| Competent government agency. Laws, decrees, and decisions based on bilateral and/or multilateral agreements. Resolution of the MCWCS adopted for the implementation of the relevant provisions of the United Nations Convention on a Code of Conduct for Liner Conferences | Maritime transport  | Distribute 80% of liner trade with the national shipping company of the State at the other end of a particular traffic | Not specified             | Existing and future, until auxiliary maritime services and post services are developed |                              | Unlimited   | Need to ensure that the shipping company has at least 40% of liner trade. Promote development of national or sub-regional fleet so as to underpin economic and social development at the national and/or regional levels. Ensure competitiveness of our export products and reduce cost of imported products in domestic trade. Ensure efficient maritime, auxiliary and port services. |

| Measure<br>(i)  | Sub-sector<br>(i)                               | Purpose of measure<br>(ii)  | Partners concerned<br>(i) | Existing or future measures<br>(i) | Optional or mandatory<br>(i) | Duration<br>(iii) | Conditions<br>(iv)   |
|---|---|---|---------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------|--|
| Competent government agency. Laws, decrees, orders and decisions based on bilateral and/or multilateral decisions | Maritime transport bulk and specialized cargoes | To distribute all bulk and specialized cargoes between the shipping companies of State at the other end of a particular traffic | Not specified             | Existing or future                 |                              |                   | Promote infant industry. Measures to be strengthened if trade partners continue to block access to cargoes and practise dumping.<br><br>Need to ensure 50% of cargoes for national and/or sub-regional shipping companies. Measures to be strengthened if trade partners continue to block access to cargoes and practise dumping. |
| Competent government agency. Laws, decrees, orders and decisions  |   |   | Not specified             | Existing or future                 |                              |                   | Need to promote infant industry  |

- (i) Description of measure
- (ii) Treatment incompatible with II:1
- (iii) Intended duration of exemption
- (iv) Conditions creating the need for the exemption