

**MULTILATERAL TRADE
NEGOTIATIONS
THE URUGUAY ROUND**

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Group of Negotiations on Services

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**COMMUNICATION FROM AUSTRALIA, MALAYSIA, NEW ZEALAND
THE NORDIC COUNTRIES AND SINGAPORE**

General Agreement on Trade in Services : Aviation Services

The following communication is circulated at the request of Australia, Malaysia, New Zealand, the Nordic Countries and Singapore to the members of the Group of Negotiations on Services.

Paragraph 5 of the Annex on Air Transport Services to the draft General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS) provides that the Council for Trade in Services shall review periodically, and at least every five years, developments in the air transport sector and the operation of the Annex on Air Transport Services with a view to considering the possible further application of GATS to the aviation sector.

In order for such reviews to be conducted in an expeditious and adequately prepared manner it will be necessary to gather and compile relevant information including on statistics and modalities of liberalisation in the aviation sector. One way to achieve this would be through the establishment of a Working Party on Air Transport Services. A draft Ministerial Decision recommending that the Council for Trade in Services decide to establish such a Working Party is attached for consideration by participants in the services negotiations.

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**MINISTERIAL DECISION CONCERNING PARAGRAPH 5 OF THE ANNEX
ON AIR TRANSPORT SERVICES**

Ministers recommend that the Council for Trade in Services at its first meeting shall adopt the decision set out below.

WORKING PARTY ON AIR TRANSPORT SERVICES

The Council for Trade in Services,

Acknowledging that paragraph 5 of the Annex on Transport Services calls for a periodic review, at least every five years, on developments in the air transport sector and the operation of such an Annex with a view to the possible further application of the Agreement in the sector,

Noting that in order to conduct such a review in an expeditious and adequately prepared manner there may be a need to gather and compile relevant information on statistics and modalities of liberalisation in the sector, and

Taking into account the role played by international organisations and agreements.

Decides as follows:

1. A Working Party shall be established and shall examine and report on developments in the air transport sector, including all relevant statistical information, modalities in place for the liberalisation of air transport services and technical considerations relating to the further application of the Agreement.
2. The Working Party shall make appropriate arrangements, where relevant, for consultation with international organisations on matters relating to the air transport services sector.
3. The Working Party shall report the results of its work to the Council for Trade in Services with a view to providing the elements necessary for the adoption of appropriate decisions relating to the implementation of paragraph 5 of the Annex on Air Transport Services.