

**MULTILATERAL TRADE
NEGOTIATIONS
THE URUGUAY ROUND**

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Group of Negotiations on Services

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COMMUNICATION FROM COSTA RICA

M.F.N. Exemption List of Costa Rica

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

In accordance with paragraph 2 of Article II and the Annex on Article II exemptions of the General Agreement on Trade in Services, Costa Rica presents below its draft list of measures for which exemption from m.f.n. treatment is requested.

The attached list and this communication are not final and Costa Rica reserves the right to modify them as required. It also reserves the right to make technical changes in the list, which may include clarifications or amendments as required, as well as any changes necessary as a result of the verification process to take place after 15 December.

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LIST OF ARTICLE II EXEMPTIONS FOR COSTA RICA

Sector or Sub-sector	Description of measure indicating its inconsistency with Article II	Countries to which the measure applies	Intended duration	Conditions creating the need for the exemption
BUSINESS SERVICES				
- Professional services*	A foreign professional may become a member of the corresponding professional college only if there is a reciprocal agreement in force with his or her country of origin and/or in certain cases if Costa Rican nationals may exercise the profession in similar circumstances in his or her country of origin.	El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua **	Indefinite	Need to ensure minimum standards of quality for professional services.
- Other business services:				
Advertising services	Import of commercial shorts from outside Central America is subject to a tax of 100 per cent of value but the tax may not be less than 10,000 colones or more than 50,000 colones. Radio, cinema or television commercial shorts are deemed to be national if they are made in other Central American countries which grant reciprocity in this area.	El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua	Indefinite	Co-operation with countries in the region through preferences granted within the framework of Central American integration.
LAND TRANSPORTATION SERVICES				
- Passenger transportation	Permission to operate an international passenger transportation service against payment is only granted to Costa Rican enterprises or enterprises whose capital includes a minimum of 60 per cent paid up by Central American nationals.	El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua	Indefinite	Co-operation with countries in the region through preferences granted within the framework of Central American integration.
- Freight transportation	Granting of permits for international passenger transportation services against payment is based on the principle of reciprocity.	All countries	Indefinite	Co-operation with countries in the region through preferences granted within the framework of Central American integration.
All sectors	Bilateral treaties on the promotion and reciprocal protection of investment.	All countries	Indefinite	National policies aimed at ensuring that preferential treatment for investments is granted on the basis of reciprocity.

*The professional services sector includes all services whose provision necessitates specialized higher education and for whose exercise official authorization is required in accordance with the relevant legislation.

**Note: In certain cases, professionals from Central American countries are exempt from the residence requirement needed for membership of the corresponding professional college.