

General Agreement on Trade in Services. (d) DECISION ON NEGOTIATIONS ON BASIC TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Ministers, meeting on the occasion of the conclusion of the Uruguay Round,

Decide as follows.

1. Negotiations shall be entered into on a voluntary basis with a view to the progressive liberalization of trade in telecommunications transport networks and services (hereinafter called "basic telecommunications") within the framework of the General Agreement on Trade in Services.
2. Without prejudice to their outcome, the negotiations shall be comprehensive in scope, with no basic telecommunications excluded a priori.
3. A Negotiating Group on Basic Telecommunications (NGBT) is established to carry out this mandate. The NGBT shall report periodically on the progress of these negotiations.
4. The negotiations in the NGBT shall be open to all governments and the European Community signing the Final Act of the Uruguay Round which announce announced their intention to take part in the negotiations.

Australia, Canada, Finland, Hungary, Japan, Korea, Mexico, New Zealand, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, United States.

Further notifications of intention to participate shall be addressed to the depositary of the Agreement Establishing the MTO.

5. The NGBT shall hold its first negotiating session no later than one and make a final report no later than 30 April 1996. The final report of negotiations.

their entry into force, shall be inscribed in the schedules annexed to the General Agreement on Trade in Services and be subject to all the provisions of the Agreement.

paragraph 5 above) of implementation of the results of these negotiations, it is understood that no participant shall apply any measure affecting trade in basic telecommunications in such a manner as would improve its negotiating position and leverage. It is understood that this provision

shall not prevent the pursuit of commercial and governmental arrangements regarding the provision of basic telecommunications services.

8. The implementation of paragraph 7 above shall be subject to surveillance in the NGBT. Any participant may bring to the attention of the NGBT any action or omission which it believes to be relevant to the fulfilment of paragraph 7. Such notifications shall be deemed to have been submitted to the NGBT upon their receipt by the Secretariat.