



**COUNCIL OF  
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

**Brussels, 10 December 2013  
(OR. en)**

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**WTO 251  
SERVICES 58**

**LEGISLATIVE ACTS AND OTHER INSTRUMENTS**

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Subject: **AGREEMENT IN THE FORM OF AN EXCHANGE OF LETTERS**  
between the European Union and its Member States on the one part and XXXXX  
on the other part pursuant to Article XXI of the General Agreement on Trade in  
Services (GATS) 1994 relating to the modification of commitments in the  
schedules of the Republic of Bulgaria and Romania in the course of their  
accession to the European Union

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AGREEMENT IN THE FORM OF AN EXCHANGE OF LETTERS  
BETWEEN THE EUROPEAN UNION AND  
ITS MEMBER STATES ON THE ONE PART  
AND XXXXX ON THE OTHER PART  
PURSUANT TO ARTICLE XXI OF THE GENERAL AGREEMENT  
ON TRADE IN SERVICES (GATS) 1994 RELATING TO THE MODIFICATION  
OF COMMITMENTS IN THE SCHEDULES OF THE REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA AND  
ROMANIA IN THE COURSE OF THEIR ACCESSION TO THE EUROPEAN UNION

A. Letter from the European Union and its Member States

Place, date

Sir,

Following negotiations under Article XXI of the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS) 1994 relating to the modification of the Schedules of the Republic of Bulgaria and Romania in the course of their accession to the European Union, I have the honour to send you the attached joint letter as well as the draft report on the result of the negotiations conducted in accordance of Article XXI:2(a) of the GATS.

The report includes two annexes: (1) modifications proposed in the notifications and (2) the elements agreed on the compensation package.

I should be obliged if you would confirm that your Government is in agreement with the content of this letter. I have the honour to propose that, should this be the case, this letter and your confirmation shall together constitute an Agreement in the form of an Exchange of Letters between the European Union and its Member States on the one part and XXXXX on the other part (the 'Agreement').

Should you agree, I would propose that you also sign the joint letter and initial the report annexed to this letter and return these documents, which I would then sign and initial and send to the WTO Secretariat, according to the WTO procedures.

Please accept, Sir, the assurance of my highest consideration.

For the European Union

For

Kingdom of Belgium

Republic of Bulgaria

Czech Republic

Kingdom of Denmark

Federal Republic of Germany

Republic of Estonia

Ireland

Hellenic Republic

Kingdom of Spain

French Republic

Italian Republic

Republic of Cyprus

Republic of Latvia

Republic of Lithuania

Grand Duchy of Luxembourg

Hungary

Republic of Malta

Kingdom of the Netherlands

Republic of Austria

Republic of Poland

Portuguese Republic

Romania

Republic of Slovenia

Slovak Republic

Republic of Finland

Kingdom of Sweden

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

B. Letter from XXXXX

Place, date

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of ..., which reads as follows:

"Following negotiations under Article XXI of the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS) 1994 relating to the modification of the Schedules of the Republic of Bulgaria and Romania in the course of their accession to the European Union, I have the honour to send you the attached joint letter as well as the draft report on the result of the negotiations conducted in accordance of Article XXI:2(a) of the GATS.

The report includes two annexes: (1) modifications proposed in the notifications and (2) the elements agreed on the compensation package.

I should be obliged if you would confirm that your Government is in agreement with the content of this letter. I have the honour to propose that, should this be the case, this letter and your confirmation shall together constitute an Agreement in the form of an Exchange of Letters between the European Union and its Member States on the one part and XXXXX on the other part (the 'Agreement').

Should you agree, I would propose that you also sign the joint letter and initial the report annexed to this letter and return these documents, which I would then sign and initial and send to the WTO Secretariat, according to the WTO procedures."

I hereby have the honor to express my Government's agreement with the above letter.

Please accept, Sir, the assurance of my highest consideration.

On behalf of XXXXX

## JOINT LETTER

from the European Union and its Member States on the one part, and XXXXX, on the other part, pursuant to paragraph 5 of the Procedures for the implementation of Article XXI of the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS) (S/L/80 of 29 October 1999) relating to the modifications proposed in the GATS Schedules of the European Union (hereafter the EU) and its Member States to take account of the accession of the Republic of Bulgaria and Romania to the European Union

On 22 October 2007, the European Communities (now European Union "Union") and its Member States submitted a Communication pursuant to Article V of the GATS (circulated as document S/SECRET/11, dated 30 October 2007<sup>1</sup>), whereby it notified its intention to modify the specific commitments included in the list attached to the Communication, pursuant to Article V:5 of the GATS and in accordance with the terms of Article XXI:1(b) of the GATS.

Following the submission of the Communication, XXXXX submitted its claim of interest pursuant to Article XXI:2(a) of the GATS (XXXX). The Union and XXXXX entered into negotiations pursuant to Article XXI:2(a) of the GATS with regard to S/SECRET/11.

With regard to the procedure initiated by the notification contained in document S/SECRET/11, the initial period for the negotiations, which expired on 14 March 2008, was extended (by mutual agreement) thirteen times ((until 25 April 2008, until 6 June 2008, until 6 October 2008, until 9 January 2009, until 27 March 2009, until 26 June 2009, until 31 January 2010, until 30 September 2010, until 30 June 2011, until 29 June 2012, until 15 January 2013, until 15 July 2013 and finally until 15 January 2014)). Following such negotiations, the Union and XXXXX have agreed on compensatory adjustments related to the modifications contained in document S/SECRET/11.

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<sup>1</sup> Corrigendum circulated as document S/SECRET/11/corr.1, dated 26 November 2007.

The Report on the result of these negotiations, which is attached to this letter, includes (1) the proposed modifications in the notification referred to above and (2) the agreed compensatory adjustments with regard to the modifications notified in S/SECRET/11.

This letter and the Annex I and II of the report attached to it constitute the Agreement between the Union and its Member States on one part and XXXXX on the other part with regard to S/SECRET/11 for purposes of Article XXI:2(a) of the GATS and the procedures contained in paragraphs 5 and 6 of S/L/80.<sup>1</sup> The Agreement shall not be interpreted as modifying the Lists of Article II Exemptions of the Union and its Member States. The agreement shall not be interpreted as affecting the Parties' rights and obligations under Article VIII of the GATS.

In order to comply with the procedures referred to in paragraphs 20 to 22 of S/L/80 the EU will upon the completion of the Union's and its Member States relevant internal approval procedures circulate through the Secretariat for certification the modifications and compensatory adjustments set out in this Agreement in the form of a draft consolidated schedule. This draft schedule will result from merging existing schedules of commitments of the Union and its Member States and from inserting therein both the modifications of commitments notified by the Union and its Member States under document S/SECRET/11 and the compensatory adjustments agreed between the Union and its Member States on the one part and XXXXX on the other part.

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<sup>1</sup> This agreement shall not be interpreted to prejudge the outcome of separate discussions within the WTO concerning the classification of telecommunication services (basic telecommunications and value-added services).



Pursuant to paragraph 20 of S/L/80 the certified schedule will enter into force upon the conclusion of a period of 45 days from the date of circulation, provided no objection has been raised by a Member on a ground that the draft schedule does not correctly reflect the results of the action under Article XXI and/or that the modifications contained in the draft schedule exceed those initially notified. As a result, the modifications proposed in documents S/SECRET/11 shall not enter into force until all of the compensatory adjustments indicated in Annex II have entered into force.

This Agreement is drawn up in duplicate in the English, French and Spanish, each of these texts being equally authentic.

Permanent Mission of the European Union to  
the World Trade Organisation

Permanent Mission of XXXXX to the World  
Trade Organisation

Done at:

Done at:

Date:

and

Kingdom of Belgium

Done at:

Date:

Republic of Bulgaria

Done at:

Date:

Czech Republic

Done at:

Date:

Kingdom of Denmark

Done at:

Date:

Federal Republic of Germany

Done at:

Date:

Republic of Estonia

Done at:

Date:

Ireland

Done at:

Date:

Hellenic Republic

Done at:

Date:

Kingdom of Spain

Done at:

Date:

French Republic

Done at:

Date:

Italian Republic

Done at:

Date:

Republic of Cyprus

Done at:

Date:

Republic of Latvia

Done at:

Date:

Republic of Lithuania

Done at:

Date:

Grand Duchy of Luxembourg

Done at:

Date:

Hungary

Done at:

Date:

Republic of Malta

Done at:

Date:

Kingdom of the Netherlands

Done at:

Date:

Republic of Austria

Done at:

Date:

Republic of Poland

Done at:

Date:

Portuguese Republic

Done at:

Date:

Romania

Done at:

Date:

Republic of Slovenia

Done at:

Date:

Slovak Republic

Done at:

Date:

Republic of Finland

Done at:

Date:

Kingdom of Sweden

Done at:

Date:

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

Done at:

Date:

## REPORT

on the result of the negotiations conducted in accordance of Article XXI:2(a) of the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS) relating to the modifications proposed in the GATS Schedules of the European Union (hereinafter the EU) and its Member States to take account of the accession of the Republic of Bulgaria and Romania to the European Union,

Pursuant to paragraph 5 of the Procedures for the implementation of Article XXI of the GATS (S/L/80 of 29 October 1999), the Union and its Member States submit the following report:

1. On 22 October 2007, the Union and its Member States submitted a Communication pursuant to Article V of the GATS (circulated as document S/SECRET/11, dated 30 October 2007<sup>1</sup>), whereby it notified its intention to modify the specific commitments included in the list attached to the Communication, pursuant to Article V:5 of the GATS and in accordance with the terms of Article XXI:1(b) of the GATS.
2. XXXXX submitted its claim of interest pursuant to Article XXI:2(a) of the GATS (XXXXX). The Union and XXXXX entered into negotiations pursuant to Article XXI:2(a) of the GATS with regard to S/SECRET/11.
3. With regard to the procedure initiated by the notification contained in document S/SECRET/11, the initial period for the negotiations, which expired on 14 March 2008, was extended (by mutual agreement) thirteen times (until 25 April 2008, until 6 June 2008, until 6 October 2008, until 9 January 2009, until 27 March 2009, until 26 June 2009, until 31 January 2010, until 30 September 2010, until 30 June 2011, until 29 June 2012, until 15 January 2013, until 15 July 2013 and finally until 15 January 2014).

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<sup>1</sup> Corrigendum circulated as document S/SECRET/11/corr.1, dated 26 November 2007.



4. Following such negotiations, the EU and its Member States on the one part and XXXXX on the other part agreed on compensatory adjustments related to the modifications contained in document S/SECRET/11. Annex I and II of this report, together with the joint letter to which it is attached, constitute the agreement between the EU and its Member States on one part and XXXXX on the other part with regard to S/SECRET/11 for the purposes of Article XXI:2(a) of the GATS.<sup>1</sup> This agreement shall not be interpreted as modifying the lists of Article II Exemptions of the EU and its Member States. This agreement shall not be interpreted as affecting the Parties' rights and obligations under Article VIII of the GATS.

5. In view of the foregoing, the proposed modifications and the agreed compensatory adjustments are incorporated into the Union's and its Member States draft GATS consolidated schedule, which results from merging existing schedules of commitments of the Union and its Member States and from inserting therein both the modifications of commitments notified by the Union and its Member States under document S/SECRET/11 and the compensatory adjustments agreed between the EU and its Member States on the one part and XXXXX on the other part.

6. In order to comply with the procedures referred to in paragraphs 20 to 22 of S/L/80 the Union and its Member States will, upon the completion of the Union's and its Member States relevant internal approval procedures, circulate through the Secretariat for certification the modifications and compensatory adjustments set out in this agreement in the form of a draft consolidated schedule. This draft schedule will result from merging existing schedules of commitments of the Union and its Member States and from inserting therein both the modifications of commitments notified by the Union and its Member States under document S/SECRET/11 and the compensatory adjustments agreed between the Union and its Member States on the one part and XXXXX on the other part.

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<sup>1</sup> This agreement shall not be interpreted to prejudge the outcome of separate discussions within the WTO concerning the classification of telecommunication services (basic telecommunications and value-added services).

7. Pursuant to paragraph 20 of S/L/80, the certified schedule will enter into force upon the conclusion of a period of 45 days from the date of circulation, provided no objection has been raised by a Member on a ground that the draft schedule does not correctly reflect the results of the action under Article XXI and/or that the modifications contained in the draft schedule exceed those initially notified. As a result, the modifications proposed in document S/SECRET/11 shall not enter into force until all of the compensatory adjustments indicated in Annex II have entered into force.

Modifications notified in document S/SECRET/11:

Horizontal Commitments

1. Market access: "All EC Member States: services considered as public utilities at a national or local level may be subject to public monopolies or to exclusive rights granted to private operators<sup>1</sup>". This entry was not included in the schedule of specific commitments of Bulgaria and Romania. This limitation now applies to all Member States.
  
2. National treatment limitations on branches, agencies and representative offices under mode 3: "All EC Member States: Treatment accorded to subsidiaries (of third country companies) formed in accordance with the law of a Member State and having their registered office, central administration or principal place of business within the Communities is not extended to branches or agencies established in a Member State by a third-country company. However, this does not prevent a Member State from extending this treatment to branches or agencies established in another Member State by a third-country company or firm, as regards their operation in the first Member State's territory, unless such extension is explicitly prohibited by Community law<sup>2</sup>". This entry was not included in the schedule of specific commitments of Bulgaria and Romania. This limitation now applies to all Member States.

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<sup>1</sup> Explanatory Note: Public utilities exist in sectors such as related scientific and technical consulting services, R&D services on social sciences and humanities, technical testing and analysis services, environmental services, health services, transport services and services auxiliary to all modes of transport. Exclusive rights on such services are often granted to private operators, for instance operators with concessions from public authorities, subject to specific service obligations. Given that public utilities often also exist at the sub-central level, detailed and exhaustive sector-specific scheduling is not practical. This limitation does not apply to telecommunications and to computer and related services.

<sup>2</sup> With regard to Austria it applies also to modes 1 and 4.

3. National treatment limitations on subsidiaries under mode 3: "All Member States: Treatment less favourable may be accorded to subsidiaries (of third-country companies) formed in accordance with the law of a Member State which have only their registered office in the territory of the Communities, unless it can be shown that they possess an effective and continuous link with the economy of one of the Member States<sup>1</sup>". This entry was not included in the schedule of specific commitments of Bulgaria and Romania. This limitation now applies to all Member States.

4. National treatment limitations on subsidies under mode 3: " All Member States except HU, PL: Eligibility for subsidies from the European Communities or Member States may be limited to juridical persons established within the territory of a Member State or a particular geographical sub-division thereof. Unbound for subsidies for research and development. The supply of a service, or its subsidisation, within the public sector is not in breach of this commitment.

All Member States except AT, BG, CY, CZ, EE, FI, HU, LT, LV, MT, PL, SE and SK: Unbound for branches established in a Member State by a non-Community company.

HU, PL: Unbound".

The schedule of specific commitments of Bulgaria and Romania did not include the limitation on subsidies under mode 3 inscribed in the schedule of the EC and its Member States. This limitation is now extended to these Member States.

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<sup>1</sup> With regard to Austria it applies also to modes 1 and 4.

5. National treatment limitations on subsidies under mode 4: "All Member States except AT, PL: to the extent that any subsidies are made available to natural persons, their availability may be limited to nationals of a Member State of the Communities. AT, PL: Unbound." The schedule of specific commitments of Romania did not include the limitation on subsidies under mode 4 inscribed in the schedule of the EC and its Member States. This limitation is now extended to this Member State.

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COMPENSATION BY THE EC

- Telecommunication services
  - Alignment of the commitments of Bulgaria and Romania with those of the EC-25;
- Financial services
  - Improvement of the commitments of Bulgaria and Romania in the insurance sector as following:

For Bulgaria:

Financial services

A. Insurance and Insurance-Related services

Mode 3: delete the 5 years requirement for foreign branches:

For Romania:

Financial services

A. Insurance and Insurance-Related services Reinsurance and retrocession

Mode 1) and 2) None, delete limitation "except that reinsurance on international market is allowed only if the reinsured risk cannot be placed on domestic market."

The following abbreviations are used to indicate the Member States:

AT Austria  
BE Belgium  
BG Bulgaria  
CY Cyprus  
CZ Czech Republic  
DE Germany  
DK Denmark  
EE Estonia  
EL Greece  
ES Spain  
FI Finland  
FR France  
HU Hungary  
IE Ireland  
IT Italy  
LT Lithuania  
LU Luxembourg  
LV Latvia  
MT Malta  
NL The Netherlands  
PL Poland  
PT Portugal  
RO Romania  
SE Sweden  
SI Slovenia  
SK Slovak Republic  
UK United Kingdom

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