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**Article VII**

1. For the purposes of the fulfilment, in whole or in part, of its standards or criteria for the authorization, licensing or certification of services suppliers, and subject to the requirements of paragraph 3, a Member may recognize the education or experience obtained, requirements met, or licenses or certifications granted in a particular country. Such recognition, which may be achieved through harmonization or otherwise, may be based upon an agreement or arrangement with the country concerned or may be accorded autonomously.

2. A Member that is a party to an agreement or arrangement of the type referred to in paragraph 1, whether existing or future, shall afford adequate opportunity for other interested Members to negotiate their accession to such an agreement or arrangement or to negotiate comparable ones with it. Where a Member accords recognition autonomously, it shall afford adequate opportunity for any other Member to demonstrate that education, experience, licenses, or certifications obtained or requirements met in that other Member's territory should be recognized.

3. A Member shall not accord recognition in a manner which would constitute a means of

international standards and criteria for recognition and common international standards for the practice of relevant services trades and professions.

1. With respect to the application of Article VII to electronic commerce, see the Progress Report adopted by the Council for Trade in Services in the context of the Work Programme on Electronic Commerce on 19 July 1999.<sup>1</sup>

2. Paragraph 3 of the Annex on Financial Services relates to recognition in the area of financial services.

3. With respect to the format for notifications under paragraph 4, see the Guidelines for Notifications under the General Agreement on Trade in Services.<sup>2</sup>

4. On 29 May 1997, the Council for Trade in Services approved the voluntary Guidelines for Mutual Recognition Agreements or Arrangements in the Accountancy Sector.<sup>3</sup>

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