

WORLD TRADE
ORGANIZATION

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of European integration. Increasing integration of economies facilitates trade liberalization. Therefore, processes of global and regional trade liberalization should be mutually supportive in the framework of a rule-based multilateral trading system.

Believing that it is essential that trading nations should be Members of the WTO, whether large or small, Slovenia attaches great importance to the accession of new countries. In the process of integration into the Multilateral Trading System, new entrants should make enforceable commitments in the area of market access, adherence to the WTO rules and make other meaningful commitments in order to maintain the fabric of the Multilateral Trading System in the future.

In some other commercially important areas to be considered in the WTO such as government procurement, investment, competition policies, trade facilitation, measures for the protection of the environment, etc. the Republic of Slovenia is strongly in favour of achieving maximum possibilities to ensure transparency of policies and practices, and to develop transparency agreements in the WTO. In other words, clear and effective procedures should be developed to secure information on national legislation, procedures and procedural requirements in the mentioned areas, information on practices and opportunities, as well as to secure the right of access to this information. Part of the transparency exercise should also be the transparency of decision-making. This would encourage open and competitive regimes specific to each area.

On Global Electronic Commerce, the Republic of Slovenia supports the establishment of a comprehensive work programme covering trade-related issues under the auspices of the General Council with the aim to produce recommendations for consideration at the third session of the Ministerial Conference.

The WTO has a very positive track record of important achievements. It is binding nations and their economies closer together on the basis of mutually beneficial economic interests. Members should therefore maintain these achievements and develop the concept of open-endedness. Multilateral liberalization is presently the most effective way to overcome economic pressures and crises. The essence of this global process should be communicated to the wider public more effectively, so that the dimensions of raising standards of living worldwide, of providing a more stable and secure climate in international relations is better understood.
